

Kinnock acts to head off future rivals

Any challenge would need backing of 46 MPs

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock scored a triumph over his left-wing opponents yesterday when he effectively ruled out fresh challenges to the Labour leadership for the foreseeable future.

A key party committee agreed changes to the election rules which will require four times as many MPs to back a candidate before he can stand.

As the current leadership contest came alive with a torrent of far left criticism of Mr Kinnock's public abandonment of unilateralism, the Labour leader and his colleagues acted to stop what they see as a damaging and costly contest by candidates who

command little support among MPs.

The party's organization committee decision to require candidates to be nominated by 20 per cent rather than 5 per cent of Labour MPs will effectively kill off any future challenge by Mr Tony Benn or his far left colleagues during the present parliament.

It means that rather than getting the support of only 12 MPs to stand as at present, a candidate in future would need the backing of 46 MPs, higher than the membership

While the public attacks on him were coming from the far left, some of Mr Kinnock's friends on the soft left were voicing private concerns over the manner in which Mr Kinnock had enunciated the new position without consulting the party.

There was no immediate sign that Mr John Prescott, who is challenging for the deputy leadership against Mr Roy Hattersley, would make opposition to the change outlined by Mr Kinnock a part of his campaign.

Many MPs believe that Mr Kinnock has been bold in raising the issue at this time in a way that will enable his certain re-election as leader to be seen as endorsement for the policy reversal.

Mr Benn yesterday made a savage personal attack on Mr Kinnock over the change.

He said: "The real problem for the Labour Party is not that we have not persuaded the electorate to support our policies, but we have never persuaded our leaders to support our policies."

Mr Benn said that policy was being made at the top, making Labour like the Conservative Party, in which policy was always made by the party leader.

The organization committee backed away from making a change to party rules which would have allowed the national executive to reject endorsed party candidates if it felt their standing was "against the interests of the party."

This had been attacked by the left as an attempt to "weed out" far left candidates and MPs.

The committee, including Mr Kinnock, however agreed that the wording "must" would be replaced by "should" to allow the executive to drop candidates who are in breach of party disciplinary rules, but there will be no blanket power to reject them.

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Young reporters make their mark at No 10



Prime Minister's question time: from left, Stephen Fairclough, Nicola Harrison, Jessica Patterson and Luke Salkeld at No 10. (Photograph: John Rogers)

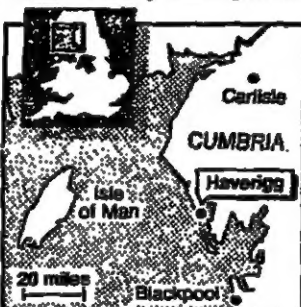
Hurd orders urgent jail riot report

Drug use link in mass breakout

By Peter Davenport and David Sapsted

An urgent report into the riot and mass break-out at a Cumbrian prison with a history of widespread use of drugs at the prison. Fundamental and searching questions need to be asked as a matter of urgency and a public inquiry is essential, he said.

Mr Train's investigation will also study staffing levels



at the low-security, Category C prison, after criticism by the Prison Officers' Association that less than 20 warders were guarding 515 inmates at the time.

Mr George Elliot, vice-chairman of the POA, blamed government policies of re-categorizing prisoners after visiting the prison yesterday.

He said that in an attempt to save money the security status of serious offenders was being downgraded, resulting in potentially violent criminals being sent to low-category jails.

However, none of those serving life sentences was involved in the disorders, which resulted in damage to 28 buildings and smashed furniture and fittings in the prison hospital, two dormitory areas, the kitchen and administration buildings.

Several fires were also started. Mr Ian Lockwood, the prisoner governor, was still assessing damage last night in a bid to determine how many prisoners would have to be accommodated elsewhere. Some inmates, including those involved in the riot, had already been moved to other prisons, the Home Office said.

The order to take down photographs and posters was made by the governor for security reasons in case they were used to hide any attempt to break through walls as part of an escape attempt.

The trouble started in two dormitories when inmates began rioting as a prison siren signalled an end to association at 8pm. Officers had heard that a protest against the governor's instruction was being planned but the timing and its ferocity took them by surprise.

By the time the officers and reinforcements from other prisons throughout the north of England had restored order by 11pm, groups of prisoners

had escaped through two holes cut in the 16 ft perimeter fence. Fires were raging in many of the damaged buildings.

Twelve of the prisoners were arrested almost immediately. Ten others were detained yesterday in a big search operation.

The riot and the break-out, one of the biggest in recent times, sparked a dispute between prison officers and the Home Office. The POA claimed that insufficient officers were available while the Home Office insisted numbers were up to strength.

Mr Lockwood praised the "exceptional response" of his staff to the incident. He said: "The majority of the prison is undamaged. We have not lost it and we never did lose it."

Mr Lockwood had been on leave but was called back to the prison on Sunday afternoon after a member of staff died on duty.

He said: "The problem started in two dormitories then escalated and other prisoners rose to the occasion. It escalated to major damage in those dormitories which led to those particular prisoners gaining their freedom, escalating the action with other prisoners, resulting in them running in a fairly un-

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Ink blots and tough questions

By Alan Hamilton

Tough questioning by a team of four journalists granted an exclusive interview with the Prime Minister yesterday failed to draw her on the question of the IRA shootings in Gibraltar, but left them with the impression that she was a dominating personality with very stiff hair. They in turn left her with an ink blot on her settee.

The four interviewers, aged between nine and 14, represented the weekly children's newspaper *Early Times*, and were chosen from several hundred young readers who submitted questions they would like to ask Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

After their 75-minute interview in the White Room at 10 Downing Street, which continued well beyond its scheduled time, the interviewers complained that on several key questions the Prime Minister had either refused a direct answer or had blinded them with statistics.

At a press conference with adult reporters afterwards, Nicola Harrison, aged 13, said she had put it to Mrs Thatcher that the Army had "gone over the top" in shooting dead three suspected IRA terrorists in Gibraltar.

"She put up her hand and

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● There are two chances to win Portfolio: the daily prize or the £8,000 weekly prize.
Portfolio, page 31

MPs to vote on hanging

The House of Commons will debate the restoration of the death penalty today when a vote is taken on an amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill.

Supporters of the amendment, which would give juries the option to recommend hanging for murderers, predict that there will be a large majority against them. Page 2

Morley move

Mr Eric Morley is merging his Miss World beauty contest group with Red Rose Radio, the Preston commercial radio station built up by Mr Owen Oyston. Page 25

Tate's sugar

Tate & Lyle has recovered almost half the \$1.5 billion (£831 million) cost of buying Staley International, the American corn syrup and food group. Page 25

Testing time

England's cricketers face an uphill battle today to avoid a series defeat in the first Test match against West Indies at Trent Bridge. Page 46

TIMES FOCUS

The Institute of Personnel Management is celebrating its 75th anniversary with an air of self-assurance and authority greater than at any time in its history. A Special Report investigates. Pages 26, 21

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Bank of England acts again

Base rate up as pound slips

By David Smith and Richard Ford

The Bank of England yesterday led the high street banks into the second rise in base rates in the space of a few days, in response to a weaker pound and concern over overheating in the economy.

The banks raised base rates from 8 to 8.5 per cent, after a signal from the Bank of England. Only last Thursday rates were increased from 7.5 to 8 per cent.

The move brings an increase in mortgage rates closer. The Halifax Building Society, Britain's biggest, said: "We do not intend to increase our mortgage rates against a base rate of 8.5 per cent, but the Halifax will have to look again at its mortgage rates if base rates go any higher."

City analysts said that the speed of the Bank's move in raising interest rates over the past few days means that further increases are likely. Money market interest rates

are consistent with a base rate level of 9 per cent.

However, the Bank is expected to allow things to calm down for a few days before moving rates upward again, barring a sharp fall for the pound.

Sterling lost ground against the German mark yesterday.

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dropping by 1.1 pence to DM3.0948. But it rose by nearly a third of a cent to \$1.8030 and the sterling index gained 0.1 points to 76.3.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson, has been pleased to have the opportunity to push interest rates higher, amid concern over credit growth, pay increases, soaring house prices and the strength of demand in the economy.

But both the Treasury and the Bank of England are aware of the risks in the present situation. On one side, sterling could regain its strength of last month, forcing interest rate cuts. More worryingly, with the pound now no longer the darling of the currency markets, its fall could gain momentum, adding to inflationary pressures in the economy.

Dealers expect the Bank to mount a vigorous defence of sterling, which could push base rates into double figures, if it threatens to fall below the DM3 level.

The stock market took the news of the base rate rise, which had been expected this week, calmly. The FT-SE 100 index closed 13.5 points up at 1,832.7.

The Opposition is preparing an onslaught on the Government's monetary policy when the Commons resumes today.

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Jailed Piggott is stripped of OBE

By Andrew Moger

Lester Piggott, the former top jockey serving three years in jail for evading tax totalling £3.1 million, has been stripped of his OBE.

His appointment to the order came in the New Year's honours list in 1975 for services as a jockey, but now he joins the ignominious roll call of public figures who have received awards and then

fallen from grace. Last night the Prime Minister's Office, which had been responsible for including Piggott's name in a list agreed by the Queen, confirmed that the former jockey had been notified in his prison cell at Highpoint, nearby Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

Piggott was convicted at Ipswich Crown Court last October of fraudulent tax evasion amounting to £3.1 million.

A spokesman for the Prime Minister's Office last night stressed it was virtually automatic for annulments after prison sentences, "even when the jail term is far shorter than Piggott's and also if it is suspended."

Mr Joe Mercer, the former jockey who rode with Piggott, said: "I am absolutely shocked. He has done so much for racing worldwide. That is all I can say."

Lester Piggott: Learned of decision in his prison cell.

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British contacts with Iran on Beirut hostages

From Robert Fisk west Beirut

Britain, America and West Germany have all begun direct contacts with the Iranians in an effort to free their hostages in Lebanon, according to reliable Shia and Sunni Muslim sources in Beirut.

The same sources — from Shia and Sunni political circles and from Lebanese pressure groups involved with hostage negotiations — say that the United States opened two months ago in the hope of finding a "legal" formula that would at last secure the release of their citizens in the hands of the Hezbollah (Party of God) movement. All three governments have repeatedly denied that they would ever "negotiate with terrorists".

The separate contacts are all said to have taken place in Europe. So widely are the reports now believed in Beirut that the American Embassy here has been approached by several organizations representing kidnapped Lebanese in the hope that Washington

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might include other hostages in its bargaining with Tehran.

"Legal" methods of freeing the captives, according to the same sources, involve the paying of compensation to Iran and the unfreezing of assets which were closed to Tehran after the 1979 revolution which overthrew the Shah. Iran has long demanded the delivery of large quantities of American weapons and

armour which were paid for by the Shah, orders which America refused to honour after Ayatollah Khomeini took power.

Only now in west Beirut, however, are new details throwing fresh light upon the kidnap of foreigners in Lebanon over the past three years and the reasons behind their abduction.

For example: 1 Mr Terry Waite is now believed here to have been detained originally not by the kidnappers of two Americans whom he had come to meet, but by relatives of Mr Mohamed Ali Hamadi, who was arrested in West Germany four days before Mr Waite's disappearance and charged with the 1985 hijacking of a TWA jet. The Iranians suspected he was living in Israel and wanted him returned to

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Mohamed, of kidnapping two of their citizens.

2 A subsequent Iranian offer to the Archbishop of Canterbury to search for Mr Waite if the Archbishop found three Iranians kidnapped in Lebanon in 1982 could never have proved successful. The Iranians asked for the return of Mr Mohsen Musavi, the Iranian chargé d'affaires, Mr Kazem Akhavan, an Iranian journalist, and a Revolutionary Guard commander, Mr Ahmad Motevassele. The Archbishop took the Iranians at their word and began his search — without realising that the Iranians believed Mr Musavi was spying for the Israelis. The Iranians suspected he was living in Israel and wanted him returned to

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Trial halted over police evidence

Another trial involving Metropolitan Police officers collapsed yesterday as a result of discredited police evidence, the fourth to do so in a month.

Papers were immediately sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions to investigate evidence compiled by a police officer involved in a surveillance exercise into alleged prostitution in Mayfair, code-name Operation Bald Eagle.

Mr John Bevan, for the prosecution, told Knightsbridge Crown Court that no evidence was being offered against three men and two women accused of running a prostitution operation from a suite of offices.

Mr Bevan said it was the prosecution case that the officers were a front for prostitution, but he told the judge that fresh evidence had come to light last week which had been hurriedly investigated.

He said that the investigation concerned one of the original officers in the inquiry, who had apparently acted in a way "which gives cause for concern".

Mr Bevan said: "What he might have done has no direct bearing on the strength of the case against these defendants." But he added that it would be impossible for police witnesses to swear that documents had not been tampered with.

Sinn Fein man ousted

A leading IRA supporter who refused to condemn the Enniskillen Poppy Day massacre was dismissed as chairman of the local council yesterday. Mr Paul Corrigan, area leader of the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein, was dismissed as Fermanagh District Council chairman after Unionist and SDLP members banded together to oust him. He enraged the town last November when he failed to speak out against the slaughter of 11 people and the injury of dozens more. After Enniskillen, the SDLP issued guidelines to prevent its councillors supporting anyone who did not reject violence.

Universities victory

Universities have won their fight to ensure that academic freedom will be protected under Mr Kenneth Baker's education reforms. The Secretary of State for Education is understood to be prepared "to live with" the statement of principle on academic freedom written into the Education Reform Bill by the House of Lords last month. Lord Jenkins, of Hillhead, Chancellor of Oxford University and leader of the Social and Liberal Democratic peers, successfully moved an amendment that guaranteed academic freedom following the abolition of the jobs-for-life system of academic tenure.

BR rejects proposal

The British Railways Board yesterday rejected proposals from the three railway unions to invest an extra £500 million in the industry over the next 12 months. Leaders of the National Union of Railwaymen, the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen and the Transport Salaried Staffs' Association urged the board to create 1,500 jobs and build more rail coaches to ease overcrowding on services into London. Management rejected the demands as too costly and too inefficient. BR said the union scheme would cost the corporation an extra £184 a year.

Fears over gunfights

Police are offering a £1,000 reward in an attempt to end gun warfare between rival drug dealers in Manchester. They fear innocent civilians may be killed. Already one man has been shot dead and another seriously injured as the rival gangs clashed. Det Chief Supt Clive Atkinson, deputy head of Greater Manchester CID, said the criminals involved were from the Moss Side and Cheetham Hill areas of the city, and were fighting for control of the lucrative market in heroin, cocaine and cannabis. The reward is being offered for information leading to convictions.

Harty suffers relapse

Television chat show host Russell Harty has suffered a severe setback in his fight against hepatitis and acute liver failure. He has slipped back into unconsciousness at St James's University Hospital, Leeds, where his condition is giving doctors grave cause for concern. Mr Harty, aged 53, has been seriously ill for more than a month. A hospital spokesman said today: "Mr Harty suffered severe complications over the weekend and he is gravely ill." He is believed to have contracted Hepatitis B while travelling through Europe for his recent television series *Grand Tour*.

MP resigned to losing vote on death sentence

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

Conservative MPs predicted last night that the latest attempt to restore capital punishment will be defeated when the Commons votes on the issue today.

Supporters of the amendment are resigned to losing the vote when it is taken during the report stage of the Criminal Justice Bill, although a new intake of Conservative back-benchers is believed to be more in favour of a return of the death penalty.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, who is opposed to the return of capital punishment, will come under strong pressure from Tory back-benchers for tough action on crime.

They are particularly concerned at the spread of disturbances in towns such as High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, and Croydon, East Sussex - the heartland of Conservative support in the Home Counties.

Eighty Conservatives have backed an amendment tabled by Mr Roger Gale, MP for Thanet North, calling for the death penalty to be the maxi-

mum sentence for murder. It would give juries the right for the first time to recommend that capital punishment be imposed.

A second amendment has been tabled calling for punishment to be limited to murder by terrorists.

Last night Mr Gale said: "It is a numbers game and with the Opposition on an informal whip it will be defeated. I have constantly said that if the House of Commons voted entirely according to the wishes of MPs' constituents and reflected the views of the electorate, the amendment would go through."

Mr Shabaka Waglini, an American who spent almost 14 years on death row after being convicted of rape, murder and robbery, arrived in London yesterday to try to persuade MPs not to bring back the death penalty.

Mr Waglini, aged 37, came within 15 hours of the death sentence being carried out until he received a stay of execution. He was freed by an appeal court after the main witness admitted perjury.

Greek controllers' strike delays holiday flights

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

As airlines gradually cleared the backlog of delayed flights which had mounted over the weekend, passengers faced a new threat of delays today, this time from Greek air traffic control.

The Greeks said they would strike for four hours from 5am today causing inevitable delays to many early morning flights and a "knock on" effect throughout the day. They are among many sections of the Greek workforce protesting over pay while inflation soars.

By yesterday afternoon most of the weekend delays, caused by a tight control on the number of flights allowed into and out of Spanish air space, had been cleared but air traffic controllers issued a warning that holiday-makers throughout Europe faced a summer

of misery because of inevitable congestion.

"In every country in Europe we are now facing a very serious shortage of controllers and equipment to handle the growing number of aircraft," Mr Philippe Domogala, regional vice-president of the International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers Associations, said last night.

Typical of the lack of planning for the problems of air traffic control in Belgium where the Government was determined that its airports, and not those in West Germany, should benefit from the boom in overnight freight delivery flights.

"As a result they now have 300 aircraft movements at night and no-one on duty to handle them. They simply did not think about air traffic control at all," Mr Domogala said.

"Jams in the sky are not like those

on the roads. Motor cars can stop when there are too many of them for any particular stretch of road. Once an aircraft gets airborne, however, it cannot stop and has to keep flying until fuel shortage eventually brings it down somewhere. That is why flow control has been introduced."

"Governments have now taken the only step they can and that is to introduce flow control which only puts a bandage on the wound and does not heal it. At the same time airlines are getting new aircraft which they can lease and unveiling grandiose schemes to expand."

"Perhaps the only answer is to stop airlines from buying new aircraft like candy as they are doing today and developing their flights until they can be sure that the infrastructure is in place to cope."

Mr Domogala said that in some areas the number of flights were

increasing by 30 per cent while the number of controllers was falling and morale was slipping.

"The military are demanding extra air space across Europe for manoeuvres and controllers, whether they are in Britain, Germany, Spain, or Greece are simply being asked to do more and more work, often for miserable pay and they are simply getting fed up."

New moves to recruit additional staff and to install new equipment will take at least five years to come to fruition by which time the problem will have become "quite terrible", Mr Domogala said.

"In the meantime the controllers are becoming scared that if there is an accident the system which is causing the trouble will not be blamed but they, who have to work within the system, will find themselves in front of the judge."

British controllers predict "inevitable" delays at weekends from now on with flights to Spain, Greece, Turkey, West Germany, Yugoslavia being especially vulnerable.

Although senior air traffic control managers are to meet in emergency session next week in an effort to find a solution they privately admit that they have been taken by surprise by the enormous growth in demand for air travel and that only by capping the number of flights through flow control can a complete breakdown of the system be avoided.

Some European airlines are beginning to call for tighter controls on the development of new airlines but in Britain several small independent carriers are proposing huge increases in their schedules to take on British Airways.

Birmingham given £200m boost from EEC aid package

By Craig Seton

Birmingham is to receive £203 million in funds from the European Community over the next five years in a package of aid designed to regenerate the city's economy and create up to 30,000 jobs.

The European Commission announced in Brussels yesterday that Birmingham had been selected for the funding under an Integrated Development Operation, the first programme of its type adopted in Britain.

The operation is designed to create a co-ordinated approach for projects and programmes seeking European cash from EEC funds.

The Birmingham money will be spent on building high quality factories, reclaiming derelict land, retraining workers for high technology industry, improving road and rail facilities and altering businesses, particularly small firms, to the "unique" export opportunities which will come from the creation of a single European market in 1992.

The package of European aid for Birmingham is one of the biggest yet given to Britain. News of the announcement delighted the Labour-controlled Birmingham City Council and businessmen attending yesterday's launch of Europe 1992 week in the city.

Mr Albert Bore, chairman of the council's economic development committee, said he hoped it would have a "tremendous impact" on unemployment, which is running at more than 12 per cent in Birmingham.

He said: "Unemployment is still unacceptably high and the more we can bring about programmes like this the more unemployment will come down at a rapid rate."

The EEC funding will go towards the council's ambitious plans for total development costing more than £400 million to revive Birmingham's economy, to diversify its industry and make it a centre for high technology business and for business tourism.

Mr John Drew, head of the European Commission's London office, said in Birmingham that the money, in grants and loans, would be used particularly to help small businesses to learn about national and international markets and to retrain skilled workers in high technology industries.

More than £100 million will be spent on building high quality, low cost factories. Another £50 million will go to the Manpower Services Commission for retraining workers.

Millions more will be spent on developing the city's jewellery and Chinese quarters, completing the middle ring road and improving Birmingham New Street railway station.

Other cash will be spent on clearing derelict land, landscaping the canal network and improving tourist facilities.

Most of the cash, in the form of grants, will come for

the European Regional Development Funds and the European Social Fund. Among the recipients are the city council, the Severn Trent Water Authority, British Rail, West Midlands Travel and the British Waterways Board.

Mr Drew said: "Birmingham has always done well from the European structural funds."

The primary aim of the operation was to strengthen the local economy through diversification of industry into service tourism and high technology industries with particular emphasis on developing small businesses and encouraging export oriented activities.

The first £113 million phase of the funding was approved by the European regional development fund in January. The announcement of the big package comes at a time when Birmingham's civic leaders are expressing greater confidence about the economic future of the city.

A £125 million international convention centre is already under construction in the city and is due to be completed by 1991.

With the National Exhibition Centre, it is hoped that the new centre will make Birmingham one of the leading locations in Europe for conventions and exhibitions.

The centre is expected to create more than 2,000 jobs and generate £60 million for the local economy each year.

Royal garden visit



The Duchess of York admires the historic landscape gardens of Painshill Park at Cobham, Surrey, on a tour yesterday.

Howe in defence of Tory 'justice'

By Robin Oakley
Political Editor

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday came to the Prime Minister's aid in defending the Government against accusations of materialism and lack of concern with social justice.

He said: "It is grossly unfair to accuse the Conservatives of failing to care about the social consequences of prosperity."

In a speech to the City Conservative Forum, Sir Geoffrey drew together the strands of third term Conservatism, insisting that there was a consistent philosophy behind his belief in market values. He criticised past welfare state practices for having undermined family life and social cohesion.

Coming after his reminder in a weekend interview that he retained his ambition of leading the Conservative Party, Sir Geoffrey's speech reminded his audience of the central role he had played in the Conservatives' achievements.

He said that present policies which were not yet popular would come to be recognized, like his much criticized 1981 budget, which, he said, was followed by "the longest continuous period of steady growth we have known for half a century".

He called for new "rolling frontiers" of Conservatism to tackle those parts of state activity - the welfare services - which could not be privatized in the same way as nationalized industries.

The Government's aims, he said, were to change fundamentally the relationship between government and citizens. It was to extend the boundaries of the politically possible in as big a way as had been achieved in the early years of the 1979 government.

Sir Geoffrey said the new drive was to transform welfare recipients into consumers and to oblige the state as the provider of welfare to become more closely attuned to the characteristics of the market.

"It is about extending the benefits of choice, competition and accountability to the consumers of welfare, and those of professionalism, responsibility and self respect to those who provide such services."

The Foreign Secretary set out four propositions for what he called the major breakthrough of the third term. Recipients of state provision should increasingly have access to opportunities similar to private sector consumers and increased choice.

A distinction should be drawn between resources made available by the state and the mechanism for their delivery.

The people who took decisions about how public money was spent should have greater responsibility, greater motivation and added incentive to improve standards and be subject to increased public accountability through consumer choice.

It was offered subsequently to the Getty Museum at a price lower than that paid this week. Artemis Fine Art, the London dealers, then leapt into the breach, buying the painting outright and offering it for sale on both sides of the Atlantic.

The trustees of the Clive estate decided to sell in 1985. Agnew's won a keen contest to market the painting and offered it for £10 million, but to no avail.

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Benn and Heffer 'yearning for past'

By Tim Jones

The Labour Party now seems certain to enter the next election with its Kincock-Hattersley "dream ticket" intact after a condemnation yesterday by a top union leader of the attempt by Mr Tony Benn and Mr Eric Heffer to become leader and deputy leader, respectively.

Mr John Edmonds, general secretary of the General Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union, told his conference at Bournemouth: "Just at the moment when we should be concentrating on a major review of policies, two venerable gentlemen of pensionable age are stomping the country trying to persuade us to return to the manifesto of 1945. I know it sounds crazy, but that is what Tony Benn has said."

The CMB's 3,000 branches will decide between now and the Labour Party conference which candidate to back and it is extremely unlikely it will oppose an executive recommendation to back Mr Kincock and Mr Hattersley.

If, as seems likely, the executive of Britain's biggest union, the Transport Workers, decide tomorrow to back Mr Kincock, then Mr Benn, the champion of trade unionism, could arrive at the Labour conference without the backing of a single union. Even the hard left Yorkshire miners have failed to endorse him.

Mr Edmonds said that in 40 years the world had changed. "The electorate has changed. I only wish that Tony Benn would change."

Mr Edmonds said he had no doubt where the Labour Party had gone wrong in the last few years. "We forgot the dreams of our supporters. The more the trade unionists neglected the party, the more the party lost its sense of balance."

"The party spent so much time explaining how we could protect the worst off people in our country that we forgot to mention the rest. It sometimes seemed that the Labour Party was only interested in the homeless, or the very poor, or the unemployed or the radically oppressed."

He said that while a socialist party should defend those people it also carried the hopes of many millions of trade unionists who were not particularly weak, nor particularly poor, but who needed a fairer society if they were ever to grow to their full potential.

Cheddar television watchers now have a choice of six channels, and for the first time in years know what is happening in their own valley.

"It was only in the past two or three years that the Home Office attitude seemed to change," Mr David Beacham, Cheddar Parish Council clerk, said. "We hope that we've done something for the rest of the country."

The Home Office said the scheme had been allowed on an experimental basis to see how it worked and how many would take advantage.

Poussin 'Moses' saved for nation £7.2m time-share purchase

By Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent

An important painting by Nicolas Poussin has been saved for the nation, at a cost of £7.2 million, after an unprecedented battle in which the national museums of England and Wales fought against the Getty Museum, of California.

The National Gallery, London, and the National Museum, Cardiff, have proposed an innovative time-share system for the painting, "The Finding of Moses".

Mr Neil MacGregor, director of the National Gallery, said yesterday: "It is a noble painting and the news is very exciting. It fits perfectly into our collection as a grand composition of the 1650s."

However, he said the arrangement with Cardiff was practical rather than preferable. "Ideally, a painting should stay in one place. This is a

solution to a problem rather than an ideal arrangement."

The acquisition is a personal triumph for Mr Timothy Stevens, the new keeper of art at the National Museum, which was involved in controversy when a group of tapestries bought as authentic works by Rubens were dishonoured.

The purchase was made possible through a multiplicity of grants. The National Art Collections Fund contributed £250,000, "for the painting rather than to either institution". The National Heritage Memorial Fund donated the National Gallery, which applied at the same time, by giving £2 million direct to the Cardiff trustees. Other grants came from the Esme Fairbairn Trust, the Mooreau Trust and anonymous donors.

The painting was originally owned in France by the Duc de Richelieu and was bought by Clive of India in 1772. It has been in Britain since then hanging from most of the time at Powis Castle, Powys, near Welshpool.

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Village is put in the picture

By Patrick O'Hanlon

The villagers of Cheddar, Somerset, for so long frustrated by fuzzy television pictures, have paid for and built their own transmitter.

Living in a valley, the Mendip Hills constantly blocked the news from nearby Bristol. "The only programmes we could get were from Plymouth," said Mr Peter Jones, of the Cheddar television shop, whose men are erecting aerials in time for tomorrow's switch on. "All our news and weather forecasts were for Devon and Cornwall. We never knew what the weather was going to

be or what was going on."

Scheme engineer Mr Michael Rutty, who installed the 20ft transmitter, said it was the first time the Home Office has issued a licence for an area already receiving television pictures. An exception was made, he said, because the villagers could not get local transmissions.

At a public parish council meeting everyone voted for an extra 1p on the rates to raise the necessary £5,000, and for a peppercorn rent the local quarry gave the council land and a hut on a hill to build the mast.

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Commons to polish up image for TV

By Martin Fletcher
Political Reporter

The arcane procedures of the House of Commons are to be reviewed at the highest level before the introduction of television cameras.

The idea is to overhaul the frequently baffling way in which the Commons conducts its business so that the uninitiated viewer can readily understand what is going on.

Senior MPs believe such a review is essential if the public is not to get a misleading impression of what the Commons is about.

They fear, for example, that the Speaker, Mr Bernard Weatherill, will be inundated with letters of protest if he is seen day after day refusing applications for emergency debates on topical issues. They believe the public will not under-

stand that to grant such ritual applications would seriously disrupt the scheduled business of the House.

The Procedure Committee, set up before the Whitman recess, is expected to agree to undertake such a review at its first formal meeting a week tomorrow.

The committee, chaired by Sir Peter Emery, the former Conservative Minister, comprises a broad cross-section of MPs ranging from Mr Cranley Ouslow, chairman of the Conservative backbench 1922 Committee, to Mr Tony Banks, the left-wing Labour MP.

It contains two acknowledged masters of parliamentary procedure, Mr Robin Maxwell-Hyslop, Conservative MP for Truro, and Mr Dale Campbell-Savours, Labour MP for Worthing. It is possible that the Speaker will be invited to give evidence.

Mr Weatherill has made clear in two recent television interviews that he supports reform of Commons procedures to cater for television viewers.

The Procedure Committee is committed to a separate review into the disciplining of MPs who disrupt proceedings. This was promised by Mr John Wakeham, the Leader of the House, during the debate on the conduct of Mr Ron Brown, the Labour MP for Leith, after he damaged the mace.

Mr Brown was suspended for 20 days and ordered to pay for the repairs, but several MPs called for a 60-day suspension and the docking of his pay. Mr Brown's suspension came after incidents of misconduct by individual MPs, and the committee will examine the possibility of fining them, increasing the maximum period of suspension and withholding their pay during suspensions.

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Appeal rulings stop judge giving life sentence to rapist

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A rapist with an "intense and unreasoned" hatred for middle-class women was sent to a mental hospital yesterday because the judge at the Central Criminal Court said the law prevented him from imposing life imprisonment.

Judge Herrod said he thought David McCormack, aged 39, could become a killer if released. He told the court he had wanted to give McCormack a life sentence but was bound by a ruling by the Court of Appeal in another case.

He is thought to be referring to one of two Court of Appeal rape cases in 1985, (Howell or Mbatia) in which the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, made clear that where the offenders were mentally ill and a bed was available in one of the four "secure" hospitals, that option should be utilized in preference to life imprisonment.

Judge Herrod said yesterday: "In consequence of that decision and for no other reason, the course which this court has to take is to impose upon you a mental hospital order without limitation of time for the protection of the public."

Judge Herrod said: "You invaded the bedrooms of single women living alone in the early hours of the morning, attacked them in a most frightening manner and subjected them to the indignity



Judge Herrod: prevented from giving a life sentence.

and humiliation of grave sexual offences. "Your record, allied to the facts and circumstances of the present case, leaves me in no doubt that you have an intense and unreasoned dislike of middle-class women. Unhindered by authority I would have thought the only proper sentence was one of life imprisonment."

Yesterday Dr David Thomas, lecturer at the Institute of Criminology and author of the standard guide, *Sentencing Practice*, said that the judge had correctly interpreted the Court of Appeal rulings.

Some judges were apprehensive about sending offenders to the secure hospitals because they believed the

chances of their being released were greater, he added.

The difference was that the release of an offender sent to a "secure" hospital would be a matter for the Mental Health Review Tribunal, while the release of life sentence prisoners is for the Parole Board and ultimately the Home Secretary to consider.

The judge yesterday said he hoped any tribunal considering releasing McCormack, a dispatch rider, in the future would be alerted to the "utmost concern" which he felt in having to make a hospital order.

McCormack had been sent to Broadmoor for rape in 1978 — without limit of time — but doctors decided to release him in 1985.

The judge said it troubled him that if McCormack were ever freed again it might result in a woman not only being raped but being murdered.

McCormack was reappearing before the judge for sentence after being convicted by a jury earlier this year of raping a dentist and indecently assaulting a lecturer.

Both victims were aged 39 and lived in the same area of north London. McCormack was also convicted of false imprisonment, robbery and aggravated burglary.

Prosecuting counsel said during the trial that McCormack had "an obsessive dislike of middle-class women".

Crawford's Phantom takes seven awards



Phantom of the Opera composer Andrew Lloyd-Webber is pictured above (right) fighting for the Tony award for Best Musical with the show's producer, Cameron Mackintosh. Michael Crawford is pictured right with his award after being named best actor in a musical.

British still rule Broadway

Michael Crawford won the award for the best actor in a musical for his role in *The Phantom of the Opera* as the British dominated the Tony awards in New York again this year with the Andrew Lloyd Webber melodrama winning seven awards including best musical.

But *Into the Woods*, a dark version of classic fairy tales, took the awards in the best original score and book categories, which went to Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine respectively. Joanna Gleason won best actress in a musical for her performance in *Into the Woods*.

Crawford, in tears after the awards ceremony on Sunday, said: "I found it a very emotional evening. I'm thrilled beyond belief that I've been accepted so graciously here in

New York. There are so many ups and downs in this business. Well, the time I have had here in New York, I know by the law of averages I must be due to be knocked down by a truck."

Lloyd-Webber's *Phantom* was the runaway hit in a year which has turned out to be Broadway's best ever season. The show also won Tonys for the production's only American, Harold Prince, as best director of a musical, and for Judy Kaye for featured performance by an actress, as well as for scenic design, costumes, and lighting.

Despite Prince's 15 previous Tonys, he told reporters: "The thrill doesn't wear off." It was the second consecutive year shows born in the West End took top honours. Last year *Les Misérables* won

eight Tonys and *Me and My Girl* won three. British hits now currently on Broadway include *Starlight Express* and the long-running *Cats*.

Best play honours went to David Henry Hwang's *Butterfly*, about a French Foreign Service officer's 20-year affair with a Peking opera diva who turns out to be a man.

Ron Silver was named best actor in a play for his performance in David Mamet's satire on Hollywood *Speed the Plough*. Best actress in a play honours went to Joan Allen for Lanford Wilson's *Burn This*, this season's longest-running Broadway play.

A highlight of the evening was a tribute to Broadway director and choreographer Michael Bennett, who died of AIDS in July.



Dr Gough will not return

Secret talks to decide fate of Burnage's headmaster

By Ian Smith

Confidential negotiations are taking place between Dr Gerald Gough and a senior education officer to decide the terms whereby the headmaster of Burnage High School will accept early retirement.

Governors at the Manchester secondary school, where anti-racial policies introduced by Dr Gough have been harshly criticized, were told at a private meeting that talks had already taken place between the headmaster, his solicitor, and Mr Gordon Hainsworth, the city council's chief education officer.

It was disclosed that Dr Gough, aged 48, will not return to the school, from which he is absent on extended sick leave. Instead, the school's ruling body will be asked to approve the appointment of a new head teacher.

Education officials will then decide what action to take over Mr Peter Moores and Jack Hewitt, the school's deputy head teachers.

All three men are accused of adopting divisive policies in a report by Mr Ian Macdonald, QC, who led a year-long inquiry into the school after the stabbing of a pupil, Ahmed Ullah, aged 13.

The report, as yet unpublished, speaks of a paradox in which senior management and governors were wholeheartedly committed to anti-racism.

"Yet at the same time the school has been the scene of greater racial conflict and polarization for students along racial lines than any other we have heard of", it says.

Although governors are pleased that the question of Dr Gough's departure from the school he joined five years ago will be resolved, they are angry that the discussions took place without their knowledge.

One governor, who declined to be named, said the move exemplified covert tactics on the part of the Labour-controlled city council.

"That anyone should dare to allow behind-the-scenes negotiations to take place with Dr Gough without our knowledge and then present us with the facts when it is a *fait accompli* is unacceptable."

Discussions are being arranged between elected pupils, teachers, governors and parents to formulate a revised anti-racial policy for the school.

Falklands film 'not political'

By David Saped

The director of a new film about the Falklands conflict dismissed suggestions yesterday that his work was either politically motivated or "remotely similar" to last week's BBC play, *Tumbledown*.

"That was essentially a dramatized documentary — mine is fiction inspired by what happened to one soldier", Mr Paul Greengrass, the ghost writer of *Spycatcher*, the memoirs of Mr Peter Wright, said.

"The one thing they have in common is that they both try to put the Falklands War at the top of the agenda."

Mr Greengrass, aged 32, welcomes the controversy likely to surround his film, expected to be released at the end of the year and to be shown on Channel 4 in 1989.

The story is based on the experiences of Mr Philip Williams, a former Scots Guard private who was listed missing for seven weeks on the Falklands.

Wogan 'has lost common touch'

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

Terry Wogan, once the darling of the radio, has lost the common touch since transferring to television, according to a report into listeners' views published yesterday.

He is seen as a star who plays up to the cameras and is rather "flash" compared to his time on Radio 2 where "he was regarded much more as a friend," Dr David Morrison, an author of the survey, said.

The report by the Independent Broadcasting Research Unit declares: "Terry Wogan has become more impersonal and unapproachable through his transition to television; a once-devoted fan described him as having 'lost contact with the audience and the ordinary people' since the transfer."

Television remains the dominant medium, although people believe radio is genuine, intimate, real and offers friendship. Listeners are also much more satisfied with radio programmes than viewers are with television shows. Interviews with 986 people

showed only 4 per cent expressed some form of dissatisfaction with radio programmes, compared with 37 per cent for television.

BBC Radio 3 and 4, the two so-called minority or specialist stations, provide greater enjoyment for their listeners than Radio 1 and 2.

Advertising on commercial radio was the only consistent complaint made by listeners. Advertisements were called repetitive, dull and irritating and constituted a "major area of spontaneous complaint."

The report found little interest in neighbourhood radio except in London.

Television stars such as Russell Grant will be featured in a series for BBC Wales intended to help people to slim. Six programmes have been planned with Heartbeat Wales, a government funded health group tackling obesity. *The Listener Speaks: The Radio Audience and the Future of Radio* (Broadcasting Research Unit, 39c Highbury Place, London N5 1QP.)

Plain wars go hi-tech

Soldiers given laser 'ammo'

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

Salisbury Plain will never be the same again. Since 1897, infantry soldiers have taken part in thousands of Army exercises across the Wiltshire countryside, using blank rounds.

But in the next two weeks, the plain will be littered with "dead" and "injured" soldiers struck down by lasers — part of a simulated battle exercise that is revolutionizing the training of infantrymen.

Yesterday saw the start of the operation, codenamed Simex 88, in which all the soldiers were armed with SA 80 rifles fitted with laser attachments. Every time a rifle was fired, an invisible low-powered laser beam shot across the battlefield towards the enemy lines.

As the coded laser pulses criss-crossed Salisbury Plain, soldiers realised they had been hit when the beams struck one of the special detector sensors concealed on their bodies, setting off a klaxon noise. It was no longer a case of "bang, bang", with military umpires deciding who should be declared dead, but "zap, zap", with the stricken soldier having no choice but to lie down to stop the klaxon sound.

Every soldier taking part in Simex 88 carries a casualty card. If struck by a laser, he is ordered to lie down and wait for an exercise controller to read the card.

"It might say he is dead, or wounded in the chest or whatever", the Army said. "Then it's up to the soldiers nearby to decide what action to take. It's all much more

realistic than just firing blanks."

The Army said that every shot fired counted because ordinary blanks in the rifle triggered off the laser beam. "A soldier can't go on firing laser beams once he runs out of blanks, so he will know what it's like to run out of real ammunition," a spokesman said.

The exercise, which will end with a laser extravaganza in front of Mr Ian Stewart, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, on June 16, involves about 1,000 soldiers, of which 800 are participating in the laser battle. The infantry is represented by the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders on the "friendly" side, and the 3rd Battalion The Royal Green Jackets acting as the enemy.



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Doctors accuse the Government of bid to censor research

By Jill Shetman, Social Services Correspondent

Medical academics yesterday accused the Government of political censorship by giving itself powers to suppress medical research findings.

Dr Colin Smith, chairman of the British Medical Association's medical academic staff committee, said the Department of Health and Social Security had recently issued a new form of contract which gave ministers the right to veto the publication of any research commissioned by the DHSS.

Although the Government says the move came after legal advice on copyright, Dr Smith said that it gave Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Social Services, powers to suppress any results that were politically unacceptable.

"For example, if a commissioned work showed that conditions in the acute hospital sector had so increased the sickness in nurses that wards could not be staffed, publication could now be prevented," he said.

Dr Smith told the BMA's annual conference of medical academic representatives the policy was unacceptable and could lead to a devaluation of any DHSS-sponsored research "when merely the fact that it had been published might tarnish the results with suspicion."

Earlier this year Mrs Edwina Currie, Under Secretary of State for Health, said in a parliamentary answer the veto would only apply if publication was likely to result in libel, a breach of confidentiality or factual error. However

Dr Smith said in those instances it would be highly unlikely to be published.

The only possible restraint could be a temporary delay in publication to allow the completion of legal processes to protect commercial development.

"We must make sure we do not allow Government - of whatever persuasion - to be able to censor the free expression of inquiry."

The British Medical Association has already written to Professor Francis O'Grady, the Government's chief scientist, complaining about the new contracts which came into effect this spring. The letter claimed scientists would stop working in collaboration with projects funded by the DHSS which would lead to a deterioration in the quality of research.

Many university medical research departments were refusing to sign the contracts, because of the implications of publications, the BMA said yesterday.

Under the former contract, DHSS-funded researchers were expected to show the results of research prior to publication and to allow 28 days for the Secretary of State to comment. Any comment could be considered by the researcher but he was free to let publication go ahead in the original form.

The new contract states publication of research results "is subject to the prior consent of the Secretary of State, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld."

Mr Michael Partridge, second permanent secretary at the DHSS, assured delegates yesterday that there was "nothing sinister" in the changes. "We have no intention of censoring research. It is intended to strengthen our legal position, in case the Secretary of State might be liable," Mr Partridge said. "We do not intend to change the procedure that goes on at the moment."

Conference delegates also expressed concern about the reduction of class experiments during pre-clinical medical training using student volunteers.

A survey carried out by the BMA showed that nearly 50 per cent of medical schools had reduced those classes for three main reasons: fear of contracting Aids by experimenting with blood samples; reductions in resources which meant there were no medically qualified staff to conduct the classes; and lack of indemnity insurance to cover practical experiments.

Dr Laurence Adams from Leeds said those provided one of the few examples of "proper scientific training" during undergraduate education.

The conference agreed to refer a motion to the BMA's annual representative meeting in July calling on the association to take steps to ensure the retention of practical experiments with appropriate supervision within the undergraduate medical curriculum.

Good grooming guide to a canine art



McLeod, a West Highland terrier, shows the patient approach at the International Grooming Competition at Windsor yesterday, with Sandra Harper wielding the scissors for Britain. Groomers from several countries are taking part in the contest (Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

Football club gets a change of pitch

By Sam Kiley

A convoy of refrigerated container lorries arrived in west London early today stacked with high-tech grass from the Yorkshire village of Elvington, in a £250,000 operation to replace the artificial Queen's Park Rangers pitch.

Nine thousand square yards of the grass - a blend of Cheviot and Slender Creeping Fescues with a "boost" of Dwarf Creeping Rye for extra strength, washed of any traces of soil - is being replanted in a layer of sand above a football pitch-sized water tank at the Rangers' Loftus Road ground.

The grass is being trucked 200 miles to the ground in west London at the rate of 1,000 square yards a day.

Intensively reared for the past 15 months by the Yorkshire-based company Rolawn, it will be irrigated and "fed" by an underground network of pipes.

"It is basically a hydroponic football pitch," Mr Alan Johnson, who is installing the new turf, said. The grass would grow almost continuously, the rate controlled by a constant flow of nutrients through the sand.

"We are laying it out from the west to the east of the stadium in blocks like giant bathroom tiles."

"The pitch will be far tougher than conventional grounds because the roots will have to dig through 16 inches of sand to reach the water and nutrients in the tank below," he said.

Rangers are replacing their artificial pitch after seven years because that type of surface is banned for European competitions.

Mr Robert Taylor, technical director of Rolawn, said that although the hydroponic method had been used for the Olympic stadium in Athens, the combination of washing the soil from roots and laying them on the base of sand was unique. QPR could be setting new standards of pitches for British football clubs.

That will come as a relief to players. The old plastic pitch was unpopular because of its runaway pace and unforgiving hardness.

However, groundsmen of the future may find they have to swap their flat cap for a laboratory coat and litmus paper.

Mr Taylor said in an interview with BBC Radio 4's *Local Network* programme, to be broadcast tonight: "Groundsmanship is a very complex science these days. The man who looks after QPR's pitch will have to be as much a technician as a horticulturalist."

Smoking parents put children at risk

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

The health of more than two million primary school children is "undoubtedly" being put at risk by the smoking habits of their parents, according to community medicine experts at St Thomas' hospital in London.

Their detailed study of the effects of so-called passive smoking involved almost 5,000 children aged to 11 in England and Scotland.

It disclosed that a child whose parents each smoke 10 cigarettes a day stands a 40 per cent higher risk of contracting bronchitis than a child of non-smoking parents.

There was also a 27 per cent greater chance of persistent cough and 60 per cent higher risk of having chest wheezes.

The results of the survey, which is part of a long-term national study of health and growth funded by the Department of Health and Social Security, are published in the latest issue of the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*.

Miss Susan Chinn, the research statistician on the project, said yesterday that unlike other surveys, the St Thomas' study was able to detect the relationship between the number of cigarettes smoked and health risk, rather than simply the number of smokers in the family.

The researchers have been careful to take out the effects of social class, overcrowding and numbers of children in the family which can mask the effect cigarette smoking has on

the health of a child.

As a result, they were able to conclude that: "This study should remove any remaining doubt as to whether parental smoking is harmful to older children."

A higher proportion of children in Scotland are at risk from passive smoking. The researchers found that more than a third of Scottish parents smoke more than 15 cigarettes between them a day, compared to fewer than a quarter of English parents.

Genetic engineering changes: 2

Chance at last to sell patent plants

The European Patent Office has approved for the first time an application for a plant.

The patent covers the use of genetic engineering to increase the protein content of crops grown for forage. In addition to protecting the method of manipulating the specific genetic material, the protection also applies to the plants themselves.

Before the decision, the European Patent Convention was thought to exclude life-forms from protection.

Uncertainty existed because the convention can be read as forbidding all claims on plants and animals.

It specifically excludes from protection "plant and animal varieties", as well as "essentially biological processes for the production of plants and animals".

However, in granting the application by Agrigenetics, of Boulder, Colorado, the European officials interpret the description "variety" in a limited way, allowing patents to be granted on new animals and plants, or on their constituent parts, now considered to make up a variety.

In a few weeks' time the European Commission will ask the 12 Community countries to agree changes in the patent law to cover genetically engineered life-forms. Pearce Wright, Science Editor, in the second of two articles looks at the implication for the future of plant breeding.

A similar approach has been adopted by the European Commission in the proposals contained in a draft directive for clarifying patent law.

The wider interpretation will be welcomed by the new biotechnology companies, which have yet to recoup on their research and development, and by the larger established agricultural firms, represented by the International Union for the Protection of Plant Varieties, based in Geneva, which has been lobbying for change.

By coincidence, a report on the extent of the decline of the world's genetic resources in plants, animals and insects is published this week.

The threat to the genetic resources of the world is among a series of studies covered by *The Earth Report*, which documents the impact

of a wide variety of environmental destruction.

Estimates of the number of flowering plants in the world range from 275,000 to 400,000. At least 25,000 are threatened with extinction.

The implications of such mass extinctions are serious for the genetic variability that these natural plants bring to crop breeders. The natural gene bank in wild plants has provided a huge potential for new crops, medicines, fibres and foods.

According to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, 40 per cent of the prescription drugs on sale contain a medicine of natural origin.

Wild strains of plants have also saved some crops from destruction by pests, when breeders make use of the resistance of the natural strain.

The experience of earlier legislation on plant breeding, which led to the formation of an international conservation group, known as the Seed Action Network, lies behind anxieties about the new proposals.

After the introduction of the Plant Varieties and Seeds Act, many traditional, often local, varieties of fruit and vegetables became extinct, because those varieties were not produced on a large enough scale.

The law also provides for a list of seeds and it is a criminal offence to sell seeds that do not appear on the list.

However, it costs more than £1,000 to keep on the list and at least 5,000 packets must be sold every year. That proved too expensive for many small specialist plant breeders.

Research by the small independent Henry Doubleday Research Association, in Warwickshire, has shown that many of the varieties of seeds not on the list have great advantages, such as higher resistance against specific diseases.

Concluded

BA launches luxury travel agents for wealthy clients

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

A nationwide chain of luxury travel shops catering for the growing number of wealthy British holiday-makers is to be opened by British Airways.

The airline is to place its existing 42 travel outlets and replace them with at least 60 "up-market" stores where customers will be able to browse through travel brochures for high cost holidays, in such places as China, Bermuda and South America. The average price will be £550, compared to the current average holiday cost of £250.

Customers will be able to talk to staff in comfort about their individual needs and even buy a select range of accessories, ranging from luggage to watches showing international time.

British Airways has set up a new company, British Airways Enterprises, to launch the glossy new shops which will be known as Four Corners. The managing director will be Miss Sheila McAuley, former sales director of Elizabeth Arden and Parfums Lagerfeld, who made her name by boosting Chloe, from thirteenth to third most popular perfume in the country.

Travel agents tend to hide away in back streets and concentrate simply on putting on garish displays of the cheapest packages they can find in the country," she said yesterday. "We believe the time is now right for something completely different where we can use retail skills to appeal to those who want a more expensive holiday they can tailor to their own requirements."

Mr Jim Harris, British Airways marketing director, is convinced the new chain will not only bring instant profits but help to boost BA's services by encouraging people to book club class flights with the airline, rather than economy class.

"The tragedy is that until now travel companies have only competed by price. People are prepared to stay in the best hotels when they go abroad, eat in the best restaurants and hire the most expensive cars. Yet they always travel economy together with the rest of the package holiday market," he said.

The shops will be targeted

in the main boom areas of the country, especially the South-east.

"We will sell someone a package to Benidorm if they really want it," Mr Harris said. "But we will try to convince them they should go to Bermuda, China or the many untapped places in South America instead."

The first two Four Corners shops will be open in October and will grow to about 12 by early next year and 60 in two years' time.

The Association of British Travel Agents reacted furiously both to the concept of exclusive travel shops and to Miss McAuley's comments.

"What she is saying appears to be very unfortunate, especially from someone who has come from outside our industry."

Travel agents nowadays do not just sell cheap packages from behind garish windows. An awful lot of people want the large number of cheap but good value holidays which are now available but equally there are many others who specialise in high quality, expensive holidays.

Inquiry backs disaster plan

A national disaster plan for the emergency services may be recommended by the chairman of the King's Cross fire inquiry.

Mr Desmond Fennell, QC, indicated yesterday that his report might tackle the issue of such a strategy. "It seems to me that there would be much to be said for a national disaster plan," he said.

"I would be glad to hear if anybody supports that. No body yet seems to have grasped this nettle. It might be about time somebody did."

Mr Fennell's comments came less than three weeks before the end of the inquiry, which began on February 1, and as he prepares to write his report on the fire in which 31 people died.

Earlier in the inquiry, he made it clear he was exasperated at the breakdown in

communication and liaison between the emergency services at King's Cross.

He spoke yesterday as Mr Ian McGregor, assistant chief constable of British Transport Police, was being questioned by Mr Roger Henderson, QC, counsel to the inquiry, about his force's proposed manual for dealing with incidents.

Work on the manual began three months before the fire. Mr McGregor explained the British Transport Police force - which polices railways, the Underground and some shipping - has no formal links with other forces.

However, forces throughout Britain were helping to prepare the manual which would be kept up to date and set out the roles played by different emergency services in tackling disasters. The manual would give detailed guidance to officers on how to deal with any repeat of a King's Cross disaster.

They would be warned to use caution before directing passengers to the surface past areas which could be affected by fire or smoke, and to consider evacuating stations by train, particularly if an escalator was involved in the fire, Mr McGregor said.

He said there had been a 10-fold increase in incidents of smoking on the Underground reported for possible prosecution since the fire.

For the year until last November 18, the day of the fire, 60 smokers were reported. In the remaining six weeks of the year 98 were reported, with a further 223 in the first four and a half months of this year.

The inquiry continues today.

Mr Robert Taylor, technical director of Rolawn, said that although the hydroponic method had been used for the Olympic stadium in Athens, the combination of washing the soil from roots and laying them on the base of sand was unique. QPR could be setting new standards of pitches for British football clubs.

That will come as a relief to players. The old plastic pitch was unpopular because of its runaway pace and unforgiving hardness.

However, groundsmen of the future may find they have to swap their flat cap for a laboratory coat and litmus paper.

Mr Taylor said in an interview with BBC Radio 4's *Local Network* programme, to be broadcast tonight: "Groundsmanship is a very complex science these days. The man who looks after QPR's pitch will have to be as much a technician as a horticulturalist."

A large, early Ming bowl tightly painted with neutral, curling chrysanthemums on a copper red ground sold to Mr Robert Chang, Mr Lai's rival, for £429,000.

Many objects had been

Chinese ceramics sale fetches £3m

By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

The Hong Kong art market transported itself to London yesterday for the largest and most successful Chinese ceramics sale Christie's has held in a decade. "There was clearly a spill-over of enthusiasm from our recent sale in Hong Kong," Mr Colin Sheaf, of the auctioneers, said.

Two lots overtook the Christie's record for a piece of Oriental art: first a Yuan blue and white jar, its globular body painted with an arching peony scroll, with lotusess and waves and projecting monster masks. It sold to C C Lai, a Hong Kong dealer, for £495,000.

A large, early Ming bowl tightly painted with neutral, curling chrysanthemums on a copper red ground sold to Mr Robert Chang, Mr Lai's rival, for £429,000.

Many objects had been

discovered in story-book circumstances, which duly affected their prices. One such was a Kinrande double-gourd vase painted with peonies and iron-red panels, its neck cut down when its owner adapted it as a lamp. It fetched £125,000.

Mr Sheaf said he found it in the dusty attic of the Bernasconi brothers outside Milan, amid the mass of Italian Impressionist paintings they also hoarded, which Christie's recently sold.

A yellow Ming plate decorated with flowering pomegranates and somewhat scratched after being used as a

dog dish, by its European owner fetched £220,000.

Most extraordinary of all was the chance discovery which threw light on an early Ming blue and white bowl sold by the executors of the late Patrick W C Bain. As a result, its price soared from an estimated £80,000 to £209,000.

"Last weekend I wandered into a Chinese bookstore and came across a book which showed two complete bowls identical to this in the Imperial collection in Peking," Mr Sheaf said.

The author said they were probably made for Imperial

use and that only one complete bowl, as well as an extra cover, remained in the Imperial collection. The bowl in Peking is identical in size, description and shape to our one."

The sale totalled £3 million, with 95 per cent sold.

Compared with those results, Christie's British ceramics sale paled into insignificance. Top lot in the morning session was a pair of Staffordshire creamware figures. Estimated at £2,000 to £2,500, they fetched £33,000, selling to J. Kaplan, the New York dealer.

A number of Hong Kong collectors also attended Sotheby's sale of Chinese snuff bottles in London, although not enough of them apparently, since more than a quarter went unsold. The sale totalled £250,000.

POLL TAX

June 6 1988

Poll tax data move defeated

The Government rejected an amendment moved by the opposition in the House of Lords to prevent the community charge registrar having access to information stored for other purposes. Voting was 125 to 90 - Government majority 35.

However, the Earl of Caidness, Minister of State for the Environment, told peers on the third day of the committee stage of the Local Government Finance Bill that local authority employment records would be placed off limits to community charge registrars to meet the concerns of peers.

Consultations were also going on between Mr Michael Howard, Minister for Local Government, and the registrar for data protection to draw up

HOUSE OF LORDS

information the community charge registrar would have access to.

Moving the amendment Lord McIntosh of Haringey, chief spokesman in the Lords, said that it was aimed at restricting the transfer of information to or by the community charge registrar.

Lord Meston (SLD) said that it should be stated in the Bill that the information obtained and retained for the administration of the community charge should be kept to the absolute minimum necessary.

Lady Faithfull (C) said that social workers were concerned that they could be compelled

to jeopardize their ethical relations if information they received was available to the community charge registrar.

Lord Caidness said that the Government did not find the amendments to restrict the information available to the registrar acceptable, not because of any lack of concern for civil liberties but because they were ill-conceived and otiose.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions, employment, Prime Minister, Criminal Justice Bill report (debate on capital punishment amendment).

Lords (2.30): Local Government Finance Bill, committee continued. Access to Medical Reports Bill and Malicious Communications Bill, both committee stage.

By Boris Johnson

A scene immortalized by Turner, Reynolds and other English artists is at the centre of an impassioned dispute between residents and planning authorities.

When the great painters stood at the top of Richmond Hill, they were inspired by the leafy prospect and shimmering bend of the Thames, which still give an illusion of untouched landscape in the west of London.

Despite opposition from residents and conservation groups, Richmond Borough Council planning sub-committee has approved a plan to build a 60 ft steel and stone pier, jutting into the river at Marble Hill, Twickenham.

The plan was proposed by English Heritage to bring more water-borne visitors to Marble Hill House, an eighteenth century Palladian villa in the park.

Residents are outraged at news of the "eyesore", and the commercial disruption they fear it will bring to the riverside scene. Mrs Camilla Panufkin said: "Practically every English painter and watercolourist has done a view of this area. To commercialize it in this way will strip it of its quietness and charm."

Professor Sir John Hale, who is leading the opposition to the pier, said: "This is one of the few tow-path areas on the Thames unbroken by physical interventions. The trees, bushes and water form an unutterably pleasing tow-path, and any sort of invasion will create a dangerous precedent."

He finds it ironic that while English Heritage led the campaign against the construction of a landing pier at Westminster on the ground that it would spoil the view from the Houses of Parliament, the same body

now seeks to impose an "entirely unwanted" pier at Twickenham.

Lady Hale added: "This is a place where Londoners can come to breathe and enjoy *rus in urbe*. There is already a pier across the river at Richmond, so there is plenty of mooring. But English Heritage have ignored the protests of anglers and all local conservation groups because they are determined to increase the number of visitors to Marble Hill House. They are only interested in houses. They are not interested in views or in the park."

English Heritage received the stewardship of Marble Hill House, which was built in 1725 for the Countess of Suffolk, mistress of George III, on the dissolution of the Greater London Council.

Lady Hale is fearful not just of the eyesore created by the pier but also of the invasion of the tow-path for a

gang-way head, which she feels is certain to attract ice-cream vendors and other clutter.

Mr John Fidler, of English Heritage, defended the scheme: "In addition to preserving our sites we have a duty to make them presentable, understandable and enjoyable. We have been looking at new means of transport to Marble Hill House because congestion on the local roads has annoyed residents. River transport seemed a good idea."

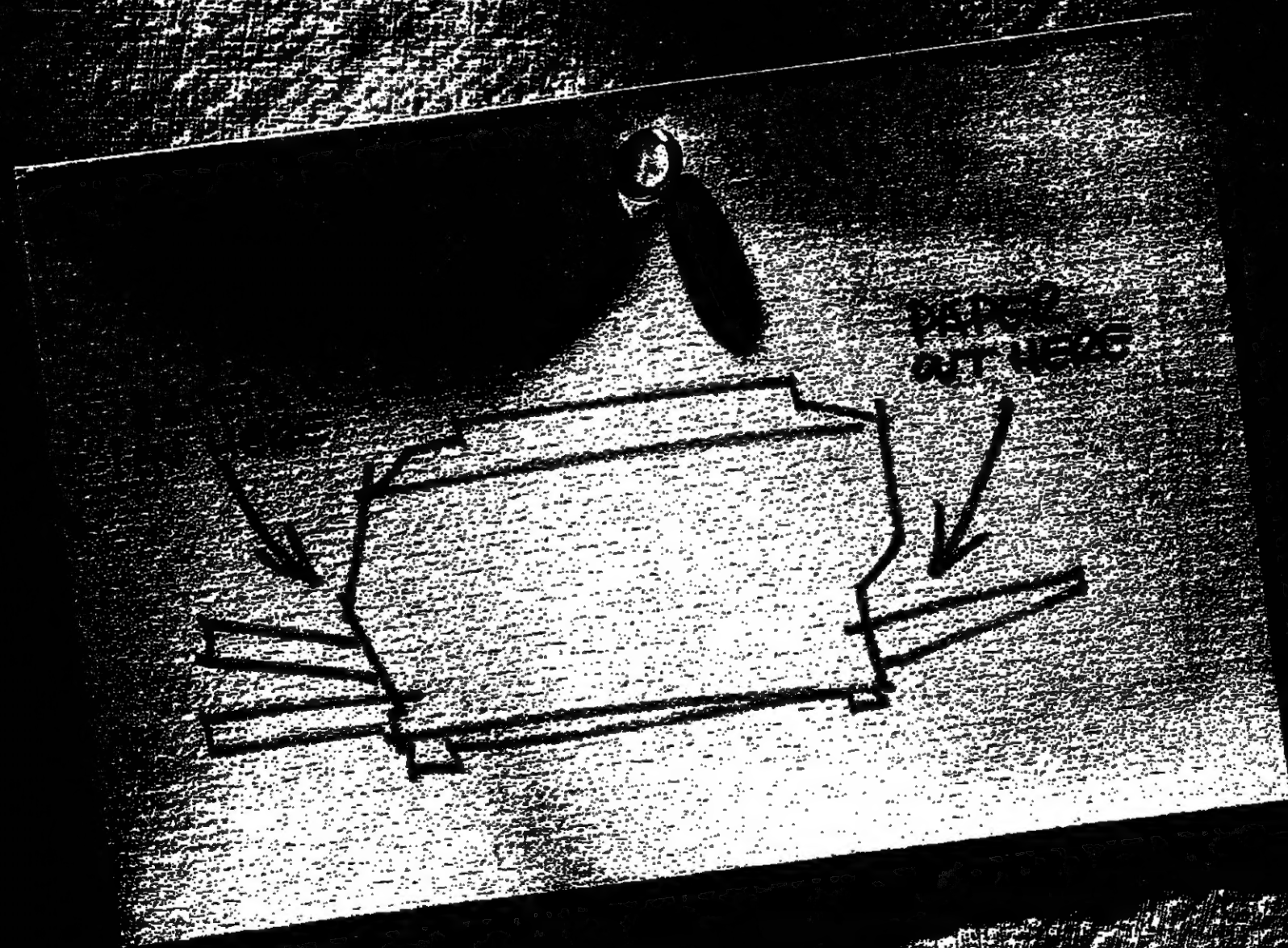
"There have been strong objections from a local lobby about a threat to the great crested grebes that live in the area. But we have consulted the National Conservancy Council and its ornithologists say that they will not be unduly disturbed."

He also denied that the construction would have a severe effect on the view that delighted Turner, saying that every care had been taken in the siting of the pier.

Residents outraged over 'eyesore' pier

Turner country fights to save hillside charm

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TODAY • TOMORROW
TOSHIBA

Bomb at
areas

WORLD ROUND

Balloonist
to new heights

Waldheim pleads

Sudan killing

Drowning ch

Date for Dalai

ANC in radical policy switch

Bomb attacks in white city areas to be stepped up

After more than a decade of a century of hate and limited guerrilla warfare, leaders of the African National Congress — which has the somewhat double-edged reputation of being the world's oldest liberation movement — are planning to manage military action in an attempt to raise sagging black morale and to undermine whites both in the Government's ability to protect them.

In wide-ranging interviews here, where the ANC has its headquarters, Mr. Oliver Tambo, the organization's president, and leaders of Umkhonto we Sizwe (Zulu for "Spear of the Nation"), its guerrilla wing, who seldom speak to the press, agreed that 1988 was a crucial year in the fluctuating war of attrition, now in its 27th year, with the Pretoria Government.

ANC leaders argued that the Government's state of emergency and its clampdown last February on most black organizations pursuing non-violent protest had left it no option but to intensify armed action. They had concluded, after the white general election last year, that most whites would still support the Government only when it was no longer seen as able to guarantee their safety.

A primary aim of the ANC will be to disrupt nationwide elections — November 26 for segregated black and white municipal councils, and to ensure a major black boycott of the polls. A large number of blacks would be devastated by enabling Pretoria to claim that it had successfully detached the government from the system of black township authorities largely destroyed in the insurrectionary turmoil of 1984-1986.

"The ANC is committed to aborting the institutional elections," Mr. Chris Hani, the 45-year-old chief of staff of Umkhonto, who is known by the initials MK, told *The Times*. "We shall not allow puppet organizations to go to the polls. We shall mobilize our people against them. But we shall also use revolutionary violence or, if necessary, terrorism, to stop blacks from collaborating. There will be about 100,000 people who have internalized the idea of

From Michael Havers, London

ing, we want to warn them that they do so at their own risk."

It is accepted that bomb attacks for white-targeted city centres must be increased to reflect the apparently already reflected in a state of incidents in recent weeks, and that this will inevitably mean more civilian deaths, both white and black. But there is intense debate within the ANC about how far armed action should be taken and about how broadly the con-

Mr Hani said that he would regard white MPs of the ruling National Party and the far-right Conservative Party, "reactionary judges who dish out death sentences on our people" and other white individuals involved directly in enforcement of apartheid as legitimate targets for attack or assassination. He would also like to see the sabotage of facilities in white urban areas stepped up to make life more inconvenient and uncertain for whites.

The killing of white MPs, judges and government officials would be a radical departure from ANC policy. Mr Tambo laughed when the suggestion was put to him, as if the idea was incredible, and then said, "I don't think that we would want to attack MPs just because they are MPs."

Mr Thabo Mbeki, head of the ANC's publicity department, and one of the key figures involved in persuading Western governments that the ANC is not a terrorist organization on the lines of the IRA or the PLO, insisted that such assassinations were not, and would not become, policy.

The differences between the political and military wings of the ANC may be partly a



Mr Tambo: One of the old guard on military action.

cept of a non-civilian-target should be defined.

The official policy, as outlined by Mr Tambo, is still that police and army personnel and installations remain the primary targets, and that civilian deaths in such attacks are regretted but considered unavoidable in what the ANC regards as a war situation. He said that the lunchtime bomb in a little bar in Rodepoort, near Johannesburg, last week which killed four people and injured some 20 others — was not "apart" as he has ordered a report from MK on why it was planned there.

In recent years the ANC has steadily widened its choice of targets for guerrilla attacks.

'Six' start retrial plea

Johannesburg — An application for the re-opening of the trial of the "Sharpeville Six", five black men and one black woman indicted to death for the murder of a black township councillor, began in the Pretoria Supreme Court yesterday (Michael Havers writes).

The six men, who were about to be hanged, had been sentenced to death for the murder of a black township councillor, began in the Pretoria Supreme Court yesterday (Michael Havers writes).

matter of presentation. But they are not deeper. Mr Tambo represents the ANC old guard, many of whom had mission education and were schooled in a tradition of non-violent protest before reluctantly taking up arms 27 years ago. After the ANC was banned and forced underground.

Over the past 10 years, waves of unrest in South Africa have driven an estimated 14,000 angry and impatient young blacks into the ANC's arms in exile, strengthening the position of men such as Mr Hani and Mr Tshwete.

There is, in any case, no difference of principle between Mr Tambo and Mr Hani that whites need to feel more sharply the sting of violence before the majority of them, as Mr Tambo puts it, will "start asking questions".

They accept that this seems to contradict the ANC's professed desire to win white support both at home and abroad. But they argue that most whites will stop supporting the Botha Government and parties to its right only when they see that apartheid can no longer ensure their security.

"Their (whites') life is good. They go to their cinemas, they go to their *braai*s (barbecues), they go to their five-star hotels. That's why they are supporting the system. It guarantees a happy life for them, a sweet life. Part of our campaign is to prevent that sweet life," Mr Hani said.

"I don't think whites want to die for apartheid... When they are murdered and they are in hospital, others will go there to visit them and will say, 'This is the price of apartheid'. We must make apartheid expensive and costly in terms of financial resources and in terms of lives."

Mr Tshwete added: "A war must be won in South Africa, that is our point. Once it becomes war, give everyone a chance to realize there is a war going on in the country, then Botha will start thinking because he is being nudged by his own people. Apartheid is no longer protecting us. It has been killing blacks for the last 40 years. But it is beginning to kill whites, too, now."

Several foreign diplomats were in court. The case has aroused international interest because of the controversial use of the doctrine of "common purpose" in a mob killing.

wanted to recall a state witness because of allegations that he was coerced by the police and coerced into giving false evidence.

Several foreign diplomats were in court. The case has aroused international interest because of the controversial use of the doctrine of "common purpose" in a mob killing.

Time for tennis with Sister Anthony



Eye on the ball: Sister Anthony, who lives and works at the US Catholic Book and Media Centre in Seattle, relaxing in her backcourt with other members of her order, the Daughters of St Paul, in a game of tennis in the centre's car park.

UN letter brings hope of Cyprus talks

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN Secretary-General, has proposed a new attempt to reconcile the Greek and Turkish sections of Cyprus after the failure of earlier efforts.

Diplomatic sources say that he has written to Mrs Margaret Thatcher and to the Prime Ministers of Greece and Turkey, in their roles as guarantor powers, suggesting that he should bring together President Vassiliou of Cyprus and Mr Rauf Denktas, the Turkish Cypriot leader.

The sources say that Athens is likely to support the new approach, while a spokesman for the self-styled Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus said yesterday that Mr Denktas was still considering his response. Downing Street said that it was not aware of a letter from Señor Pérez de Cuéllar,

but that the issues had been discussed and the Government supported his efforts. Turkey's position remains unclear.

Details of the letter made available to *The Times* show that he had originally hoped to hold a lunch in New York for the two leaders last Wednesday. It has been delayed, and some sources expect it to take place in Geneva on July 10 if Mr Denktas accepts.

Key elements in the letter, which begins "Dear Prime Minister", are:

- The two leaders would meet without preconditions.
- The starting point for talks should be 1977 and 1979 agreements (implicitly cutting out subsequent proposals).
- They would undertake to reach a comprehensive agreement by a fixed date.

● The date was to have been June 1, 1989 (but is likely to be put back to July 1989).

● They would make a public declaration of their intentions and set out the procedure.

● The Secretary-General's special envoy, Mr Ozer Camilian, would make quarterly evaluations of the progress.

The plan has aroused strong interest in the Greek Cypriot conservative and pro-independence parties but may be opposed by the socialists and others. Their objection would be that it makes no mention of preconditions the Greek Cypriots have sought in the past, including a withdrawal of Turkish troops from the north. President Vassiliou is to fly home from New York to consult the parties.

Mr Denktas has in the past

opposed any departure from an earlier plan proposed by the Secretary-General, which he accepted. His position was that the Greek Cypriots should accept it too.

In Ankara yesterday President Ezer of Turkey appeared to rule out a withdrawal. "It is out of the question that such a withdrawal may occur," he was quoted as saying. Turkey has about 49,000 troops in Cyprus, according to Turkish Cypriot sources, and 29,000 according to UN officials.

In the past Mr Denktas has wanted to be considered a head of state, although his Turkish Republic is recognized only by Ankara. The Secretary-General's idea is that they should meet simply as "the Greek Cypriot side and the Turkish Cypriot side".

WORLD ROUNDUP

Balloonist floats to new heights

Laredo, Texas (AP) — Mr. Pete Lindstrand, the British balloonist, broke the world altitude record for a hot-air balloon yesterday, floating about 11 miles above the Earth's surface, his spokeswoman said.

After take-off of two of four 100th sandbags remained attached to the balloon, threatening the mission, Mr Pete Lindstrand, the project co-ordinator, said. But Mr Lindstrand climbed out of the str by 5 ft by 5 ft aluminium capsule to cut away the sandbags.

Ms Karen Binkley, the spokeswoman, said that officials verified that Mr Lindstrand had topped the 55,124 ft record set in 1980 by Mr Julian Nott. "He later radioed us that he had reached 60,000 ft," Ms Binkley said. Mr Lindstrand's ascent on the world record, was repeatedly delayed because of storms or high winds. He finally lifted off yesterday morning from a ranch about 27 miles north of Laredo. Last year, Mr Lindstrand and Mr Richard Branson made the first hot-air balloon crossing of the Atlantic.

Waldheim pleased

President Waldheim of Austria yesterday welcomed the ruling of judges in the Thames Television programme *A Commission of Inquiry* on Sunday that there was no case for him to answer on war crimes allegations (Andrew McEwen writes). "That corresponds with what I have been saying for almost three years: that we are dealing simply with a slander campaign," he said.

But in New York, the World Jewish Congress dismissed the trial as "consumer fraud." Mr Elan Steinberg, executive director of the congress, which helped lead investigations into President Waldheim's war record, said the programme could not compel production of evidence, had no sanctions against perjury, and no appeal procedure.

Sudan killings claim

Khartoum (Reuters) — Five men charged with killing five Britons, and two Sudanese, in Khartoum last month confessed to being trained in Lebanon, the Prime Minister, Mr Sadeq al-Mahdi, said yesterday.

But he told Parliament it was possible that Lebanese passports found on the men were forgeries. Arab and Western diplomatic sources have said the five confessed to being members of a Palestinian group led by Abu Nidal, believed to have masterminded dozens of such attacks. The five Britons, including two children, and two Sudanese were killed on May 15 when gunmen raided the Sudan Club and a bomb explosion brought down the dining room roof at the Acropole Hotel in the Sudanese capital.

Drowning charges

Paris — Four people have been charged with "failing to assist persons in danger" after last week's discovery of the body of a British sailor on a beach near La Rochelle in western France (Susan MacDonald writes). Police accused the four — a prostitute, two bar owners and one of their customers — of leaving the naked body of Chief Petty Officer Richard Brown, from the minesweeper HMS Maxton, unconscious on the shore where he drowned as the tide came in. They said the incident happened after the sailor undressed and passed out in the street outside the prostitute's door.

Date for Dalai Lama

Chinese efforts to dissuade British members of the European Parliament from inviting the Dalai Lama, the exiled spiritual leader of Tibet, to address them have failed (Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent, writes). It was announced yesterday that he is to visit the Parliament in Strasbourg on June 15 and will hold meetings with groups of MEPs. Last year, the Parliament passed a resolution criticizing Peking's conduct in Tibet, but was later overruled by its own officers, who declared that they had responsibility for the Parliament's foreign policy.

Russian church to canonize seven new saints

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

A general church council — only the third since the Russian Revolution — was opened yesterday by Russian Orthodox bishops as part of the week of celebrations marking 1,000 years of Christianity in Russia.

The four-day council, of which the opening proceedings were observed by scores of leading foreign churchmen, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, was convened at the 14th Century Trinity-St Sergius monastery in Zagorsk, about 35 miles outside Moscow.

The council is due to discuss a draft charter on internal church management, which Western ecclesiastical experts point out must not be confused with the new law on state-church relations that is being drawn up in Moscow.

The meeting will also canonize seven new saints, all of them figures from the past. Before the council convened some leading Soviet dissidents had campaigned in vain for the canonization of some of the clergy and labour leaders who died in labour camps during Stalin's terror.

Yesterday's historic session, which started with a service sung by monks from the monastery, pro-

ceeded with a message from the Moscow Government assuring believers and atheists alike that the state would protect their interests.

The message, read out by Mr Konstantin Kharchev, the chief of the State Council for Religious Affairs, which supervises all church activity inside the Soviet Union, quoted words used on another occasion by Mr Gorbachev: "We have a common history, one fatherland and one future."

The tone of the message reflected Mr Gorbachev's concern to try to swing support from the large num-

ber of Christian believers inside the Soviet Union behind his reform programme.

His method has been a gradual relaxation of some state measures against the church, but dissidents argue that so far the approach could be characterized as "too little, too late".

As the weeklong millennium celebrations gather pace, growing pressure is expected on the Kremlin to make a gesture by releasing some or all of the scores of prisoners still being held around the country as a result of their religious beliefs.

Pravda reports 'election rigging' protest

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Recent protests in the Soviet Union have been focused on the Siberian port city of Omsk, over alleged election rigging by bureaucrats trying to force their own men through as delegates to this month's watershed Communist Party conference.

Pravda disclosed yesterday that enraged citizens of the city jammed an 8,000-seat football stadium to protest violently at the attempt to rig the poll. "For the first time in living memory in Omsk, a city meeting took place which had not been ordered from above," the official Communist Party paper said.

It added that as the angry crowd spilled on to the pitch at the Dynamo stadium, speakers throughout local

party leaders. "Party workers who came to the meeting... went through some unpleasant moments," *Pravda* said. Reaction in the stadium had sometimes resembled the heated atmosphere at a football match, it said.

The report followed the warning delivered last Friday by Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Nobel prize-winning and former dissident who told a Moscow news conference that there were many examples of "anti-democratic" forces trying to influence the composition of the conference.

The choice of the 5,000 delegates is crucial because they will vote on numerous important issues, the

future of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's reform programme. The Russian leader had called for the democratic selection of candidates to the conference, the first of its kind since 1941.

No date was given by *Pravda* for the Omsk protests, but final elections to the June 28 conference were due to be completed last week.

Pravda said that in the Omsk city, even leaders of bank and fire party bodies, with delegates among their members, did not know they had been chosen until the final list was published.

Pravda reported that speakers criticized party leaders at times of criticism and ecological problems.

atmosphere prevailed in Zagorsk. Hundreds of ordinary believers, mostly the old women who form the main constituency of most Russian Orthodox Church services, were allowed into the monastery grounds, where they were led by plainclothes security men as they moved among the different churches and took Holy Water from the well.

One grandmother said that she had travelled off the way from the remote Siberian province of Yakutia to attend the celebrations. Outside, in the streets of the town, there was a holiday atmosphere as pedlars in medieval costumes hawked hot pies to the crowds.

Later, today the focus of the religious jubilee will switch to Kiev, the Ukrainian capital, where part of the historic Kyiv Pechersky monastery — the burial place of more than 100 saints in a maze of underground caves — is to be returned to the Russian Orthodox Church at a special ceremony. The site, plundered and rebuilt throughout its long history, recently became the centre of a campaign by Ukrainian nationalists who claimed that the cathedral contained the relics of the saints who were murdered.

The ceremony of imposing golden domes over the River Dnieper, where Prince Vladimir of Kiev ordered mass baptisms in 988, the date now being celebrated as the 1,000th anniversary in Russia.

California vote on Proposition 71

US watching to see if tax revolt state takes a step back

From Charles Bremner, Los Angeles

California voted in a referendum exactly a decade ago to slash property taxes, an act now seen as the overture to the Reagan era and its creed of "government is the problem".

Today, for the first time since 1978, Californians must decide whether to step back when they vote on a measure to ease the constraints of the celebrated Proposition 13. It is one of 11 issues up for popular decision alongside the primary elections.

Just as the 1978 vote signalled a turn in the national tide, so, the political experts say, Proposition 71 could mark a swing in the American political pendulum.

The measure to modify the limits to public spending, if only slightly, reflects a feeling among the huge and affluent California middle class that the "tax revolt" is making life more difficult for them and their children.

The three big consequences can be summed up in three words: cars, cops and kids.

The celebrated freeways are choking and falling to pieces, and the state has fallen to 50th place in highway spending. Murderous drug gangs are ruling big chunks of Los Angeles, and the state's once superb schools are now among the worst in the nation.

"The middle class feels short-changed," says Mr Gray Davis, the state's centrist and possible Democratic candidate to replace Mr George Deukmejian, the Republican Governor. "How can their children compete in an information society if 46 other states are investing more in the future than we are?"

Though the state's Democrats went along enthusiastically with the anti-tax sentiment, liberals among them are now raising their voices on the side of the poor, and the big immigrant community who pay the biggest price for the lack of services.

The *Los Angeles Times*, the state's most powerful newspaper, has been campaigning for Proposition 71, addition to

the original Proposition 13. "California voters have an opportunity to take a small step back from the wasteland and to plant some seeds for a better future that includes all Californians and all their needs," it said.

But polls suggest an ambiguous mood among the electorate. The "smaller government" forces still lead by 48 per cent to 43 per cent, while 41 per cent favour raising local taxes for roads, police and schools.

The idea of raising taxes is still such political anathema that Mr Deukmejian was forced last week into an embarrassing retreat. First he announced plans for "tax adjustments" to help compensate for a \$1 billion (£580 million) shortfall in the state budget; but after an outcry over what appeared to be an income tax increase, he scrapped the idea and said he would find other ways.

Among other issues on the California ballot are competing measures to limit donations to state political cam-

paigns from business and special interest groups. Campaigns, which cost an average of about £295,000, would instead receive funding from the state government. An unusual alliance of right-wing big business interests and liberal Democrats are opposing the measure.

The ballot also includes some extremist issues, such as a proposal by followers of the activist Mr Lyndon LaRouche for the quarantine of Aids victims.

● Dukakis confident: Voters in California and three smaller states are expected to help lock up the Democratic nomination for Mr Michael Dukakis today at the anti-climatic end to the long 1988 presidential primary season.

Dukakis staff were buoyed yesterday when last-minute polls put the Massachusetts Governor more than 20 points ahead of Mr Jesse Jackson, his still energetic rival, in California, America's most populous state. The pollsters say a Jackson upset is hardly imaginable in California, New

Jersey, Montana and New Mexico today.

Vice-President George Bush, who has failed to spark more than polite interest among California Republicans, flew back to the state on Sunday and opened a methane-gas filling station in front of 100 security men, reporters and a gaggle of elderly women. "This is a very important day," he said with a wince as he filled up the first non-polluting car. Though he is assured of the Republican nomination, the polls in California and across the country suggest that Mr Bush is falling still farther behind Mr Dukakis.

Mr Jackson, the most visible of all the candidates in the state for the past week, wound up his campaign courting the Hispanic vote. Everywhere, he has been invoking the name of Robert Kennedy, who was assassinated on June 5, 1968, the night he won the state Democratic primary.

The Kennedy memory has loomed large over California in the closing days of the

lacklustre primary. "Robert Kennedy was the last major leader who allowed us to at least imagine we could realize the ideals of American politics. Successors have compelled us to mean and unworthy compromise," said Mr Adam Walinsky, who was an assistant to Robert Kennedy in his years as Attorney General and Senator.

When Mr Dukakis arrived back in Los Angeles from New Jersey on Sunday night, his local staff greeted him wearing badges that read simply "2081". With 466 convention delegates to be awarded in today's primaries, the Massachusetts Governor is on the verge of breaking through to the magic 2,081 total needed to guarantee the party nomination in Atlanta next month. Barring accident, he should be able to raise his current 1,770 over the 2,081 mark by tonight.

State officials predicted that only one-third of the eligible 18 million voters would go to the polls.

French parliamentary elections

Small parties poised to tip the balance

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

This week's campaigning for the second and final round of voting in the French parliamentary elections next Sunday will concentrate on mobilizing the third of the electorate who did not vote last weekend.

Backroom negotiations will be aimed at swinging the Communist vote to the Socialists and, more delicately, the National Front vote behind the traditional right wing.

The Socialist "tidal wave" that had been forecast failed to emerge in the first round. The highest parliamentary election abstention rate since the war—34 per cent—undoubtedly played an important part in the result, which put the Union for Rally and the Centre, the right-wing alliance, slightly ahead of the Socialists with 40.5 per cent of the vote over 37.5 per cent.

However, computer forecasts still predict the Socialists will have an absolute majority in parliamentary seats after next Sunday—albeit in a slimmed-down form—providing those who abstained vote and all the left-wing votes go to the Socialists.

Many of those who abstained were suffering from political fatigue—having been called to the polls four times in the past six weeks. Others lost interest in the lacklustre campaign, especially on the right

where leaders had been demoralized by President Mitterrand's decisive presidential election victory over M. Jacques Chirac last month.

Now every floating vote counts. The Communists have been given a boost after their dismal presidential election showing, with a first round vote of just over 11 per cent, a slight improvement on their 1986 result.

M. Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, has announced that they will support Socialists in areas where a Socialist is in the lead, but maintain Communist candidates who are ahead of Socialists. This strategy could give them around 10 parliamentary seats, compared with the 35 they held in the previous Parliament.

The reason for the reduction is the return to a majority voting system over the proportional representation in force in 1986. This has also played havoc with the National Front. Its first round vote, of 9.5 per cent, is not so different from that of 1986, but the majority system could reduce the party's 35 parliamentary seats to none. Gone is the nearly 15 per cent of last month's presidential elections, which many feel was largely a protest vote against political infighting.

However, M. Jean-Marie Le

Pen, the National Front leader, has not lost his bite. He has stated bluntly that the conservative alliance has no hope of winning next Sunday without doing a deal with the National Front. This applies particularly in the Bouches du Rhône district, which includes Marseilles. Here nine National Front candidates, including M. Le Pen, are leading alliance candidates.

To stand down in favour of the right-wing alliance would win valuable seats for the conservatives, but M. Le Pen is bound to want something in return. The dilemma for the alliance is that no matter how quietly they come to an agreement in individual constituencies, doing a deal with the National Front could lose them the centre-right vote.

M. Michel Rocard, the Prime Minister, and M. Pierre Mauroy, the new Socialist Party secretary-general, called for voters to turn out "en masse" next Sunday. So did M. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former President, and M. Chirac, the former Prime Minister, who both won more than 50 per cent of their constituency vote and have therefore been elected first time round.

M. Rocard and M. Mauroy, although in the lead in their constituencies, are still contesting the elections.



M. Le Pen, National Front leader, commenting in Marseilles on his party's poor showing.

Japanese peace mission has an eye on trade

From David Watts, Tokyo

Japan is sending a Cabinet minister to Israel for the first time as part of the preparation of a new Middle East peace initiative. Mr. Sosuke Uno, the Foreign Minister, will fly to Jerusalem this month after visiting Arab countries in an attempt to get Jews and Arabs talking to each other over the West Bank and Gaza.

He is expected to raise the question of Israeli treatment of West Bank Palestinians and will also see Mr. Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, presumably in Damascus. Though the tour will come not long after the latest round of shuttle diplomacy by Mr. George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, Japan is keen to have its initiative seen as independent of the US effort.

The visit is being billed as part of the policy of the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Noboru Takeshita, of "contributing to the world". But it also appears to be an attempt to outflank a menacing Trade Bill in the US by wooing the Jewish lobby, as well as being a substitute for Japan's frustrated efforts to mediate in the Iran-Iraq war.

Books purporting to reveal the enormous power of the Jews and the Jewish lobby in setting US business and political policy have been popular in Japan in recent years. Although short on fact and long on prejudice, they have been popular among both bureaucracy and élite, so there may have been at least an amount of scious side-effect in convincing policy-makers to ally themselves with such a power.

The Foreign Ministry maintains officially that the trip— to Syria, Jordan and Egypt, followed by Jerusalem—does not represent any change in policy. But it will certainly be seen as such by Israel, which has complained of Japan's pro-Arab bias for years.

Though the ministry has been studying the idea of a broader-based Middle East policy for three years, it is only now that economic realities

make it possible. With oil prices lower, Japan is now less dependent on Arab states which might object to a more even-handed approach, and with the lessening of economic opportunities reflected in sharply-reduced trade with the oil-producing nations Japanese business is ready to look for other opportunities.

Clearly it has been allowed to do so: Japan-Israeli trade is up 85 per cent in the first quarter of this year, and last month Mitsubishi cars went on sale in Tel Aviv for the first time, through a Mercedes-Benz dealership.

By the end of the year business is expected to have tripled to an annual average of over \$1 billion (£500 million) over the past three years, a marked change from the days when Israel suspected the Ministry of International Trade and Industry of using administrative guidance to damp down trade with the Jewish state.

But how successful Japan's new diplomatic foray will prove is an open question. Tokyo brings to the area the virtue of lack of past involvement and the goodwill of many Arab states. If Tokyo can contribute to a settlement of the Palestinian question it will not only win world recognition but also open the way for expanded business opportunities in the area.

But just as the people of Japan are no greater exercised over the fate of blacks in South Africa they are equally indifferent to a problem most would regard as both a legacy of Western imperialism and a religious conflict which the Japanese, with their lack of religious commitment, regard as totally outside their ken.

The country is clearly determined, however, for better or worse, to have a go: Mr. Uno last month told the visiting Syrian Foreign Minister, Mr. Farouk al-Shara, that his country would commit itself to finding a solution to the Middle East conflict.

Shultz calls for a check on rights

From David Bernstein, Jerusalem

The US Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights, Mr. Richard Shifter, yesterday visited the West Bank and Gaza Strip to investigate human rights conditions in the occupied territories.

His immediate superior, Mr. George Shultz, had expressed concern over alleged human rights violations in the territories during his meeting on Sunday with the Israeli Defence Minister, Mr. Yitzhak Rabin. Mr. Rabin conceded afterwards that "there are differences of opinion... on the interpretation of what are human rights in the (occupied) areas".

Mr. Shifter, who arrived here last week after attending the Moscow summit meeting, was told by Mr. Shultz to stay in Israel and to establish, in co-ordination with Mr. Rabin, a "mechanism" for keeping Washington informed on what is happening in the territories.

Mr. Rabin said yesterday that as the six-month-old Palestinian uprising was apparently slowing, he was considering a review of some of the tougher measures used to contain the unrest. Israel Radio said he told members of the country's delegation to an international conference of liberals this week that he might even consider the return of Palestinians expelled within the past six months.

There are signs, meanwhile, that Israel is taking tougher steps against both soldiers and settlers involved in serious human rights violations in the territories.

Private Tamir Yacov, a Falasha who arrived in Israel from Ethiopia four years ago, was sentenced on Sunday to a year in jail for having killed a Gaza shopkeeper last January.

The army prosecutors had reportedly considered a murder charge, but chose the lesser charge in view of his disturbed background. Like many Falashas, Private Yacov has had great difficulty in adapting to his new country, and has felt alienated and discriminated against. Army psychologists have said he should never have been sent to Gaza on active duty.

An officer, Second Lieutenant Giora Even-Tzur, has been arrested in connection with last month's alleged atrocity in the West Bank village of Aroua, where villagers claim two youths were buried with stones in pens built for the purpose on a hillside behind the village.

Next day journalists were shown the pens, still filled with blood-spattered stones. A military appeals court this month reversed a lower court decision on Private Saguy Harpaz, one of the Israeli

soldiers filmed while brutally beating two Palestinian demonstrators near Nablus, and jailed him for a month. The army prosecutor had appealed against the lower court's suspended sentence.

On Sunday the High Court overturned another lower court ruling, on Mr. Israel Zeev, a settler from Shilo in the West Bank charged with the unprovoked killing of a Palestinian shepherd near the settlement. It ordered that he be held in custody to the end of his trial.

The lower court had ruled that he be released on bail, but Justice Shlomo Levin of the High Court said that there



Mr. Rabin: May allow return of expelled Palestinians.

were signs that the settlers were growing increasingly "trigger-happy", so incidents of this sort must be taken with the utmost seriousness.

●DAMASCUS: Mr. Shultz yesterday dismissed as unworkable the idea of setting up an independent Palestinian state (Reuters reports).

He was speaking before meeting President Assad of Syria to discuss Middle East peace efforts. Asked if the US would agree to an independent state for the Palestinians, Mr. Shultz said: "Personally, I think that is unworkable and I would not think that is necessary to provide a good political outlook."

"It just does not make any sense to me to think there could be a workable state that was like a country on the West Bank and Gaza."

Mr. Shultz, paying his fourth visit to the Middle East to promote US proposals to end the Arab-Israeli conflict, held three hours of discussions with President Assad before returning to Cairo.

On the future of the Palestinians, he said: "It's much more workable to think of a grouping of people that has a relationship, a confederation or an attachment, to another state or states. That's more workable. But that does not lessen the fact that you have more control over the conditions in which you live."

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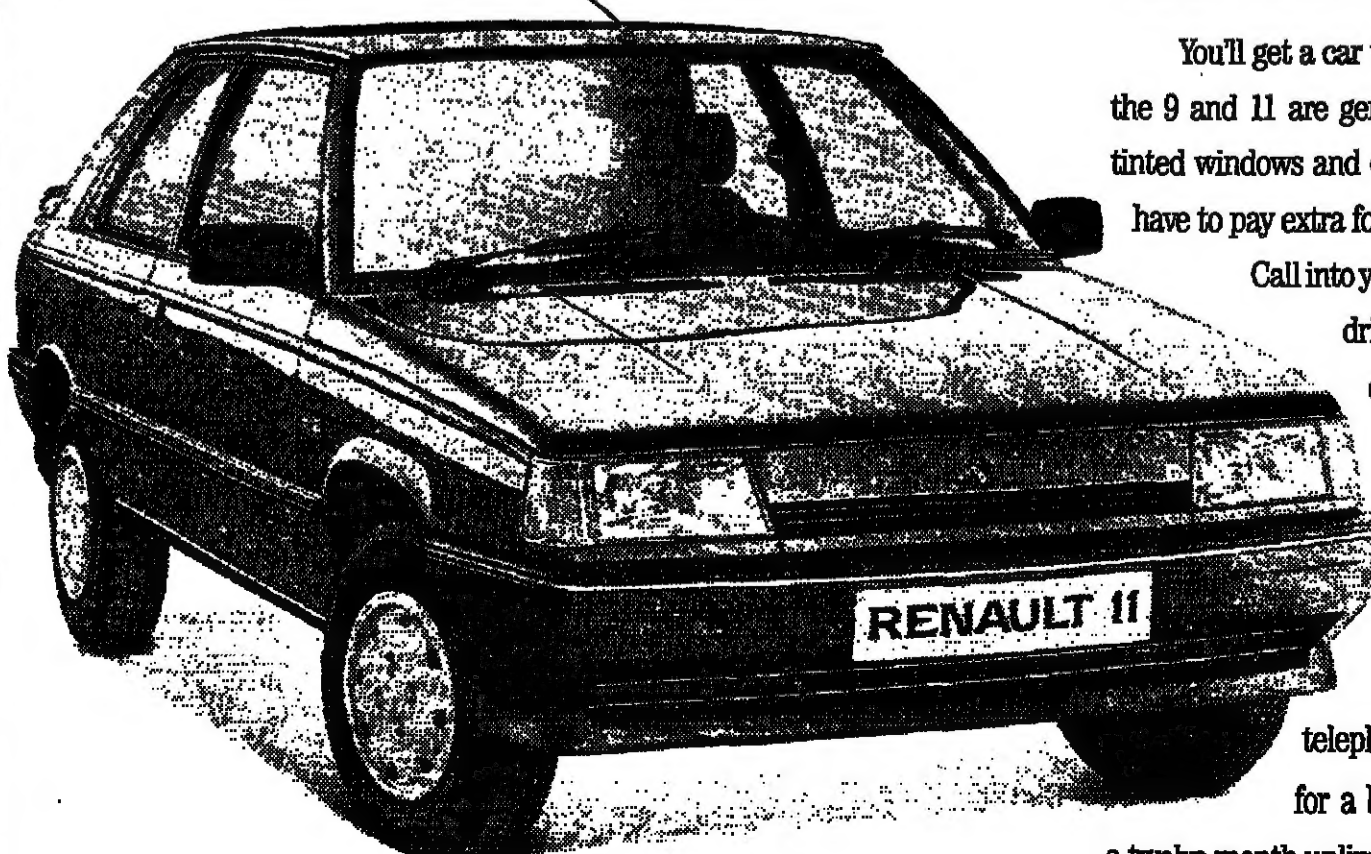
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Policy switch shuts Hong Kong's doors

Boat people to be returned to Vietnam when possible

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

The British Government is about to take action to stop the flood of Vietnamese boat people pouring into Hong Kong. In a change of policy worked out between Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, all new arrivals except genuine political refugees will be told that they will be sent back to Vietnam when it becomes possible.

This reverses a policy, which has lasted since 1979, of allowing them to stay until resettlement in another country can be arranged.

Sir Geoffrey is to ask his Vietnamese counterpart, Mr Nguyen Co Thach, in New York today to allow boat people to return. Britain and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees want to be sure that they will be accepted back under the same conditions. There will be no repatriations until the Government feels sure of this.

Sir Geoffrey is faced with a dilemma: agreement with Vietnam will not be achieved quickly, but a policy change cannot wait. The rate of arrivals has shot up this year as other countries in the region have begun closing their doors.

At the last count, on May 24, Hong Kong had 13,305 boat people, mostly in camps which are effectively prisons. By the end of May there had been 2,876 new arrivals in one month. There was a further influx at the weekend and the

total is now put unofficially at about 14,500. Another wave is expected in July and August when the prevailing wind swings round, helping the boats on their way.

The vast majority of boat people are from North Vietnam, can neither read nor write, have no skills which would make them employable, and are leaving to escape poverty rather than persecution. Word has got back to the villages that a change of Hong Kong's policy is inevitable, causing many to bring forward their departure.

Another cause of the increased exodus is a growing risk of famine. Vietnam's cereal crops last year were damaged by the weakest and most erratic monsoon on record. Official figures showed grain production in 1987 fell well below the 18.2 million tonnes of 1985. The United Nations Food and Agriculture

Organization yesterday appealed for emergency food aid to avert a famine. It said large sections of the population were facing severe food shortages.

The small proportion of boat people coming from the south are less difficult to resettle because most have education and skills. But the change will apply to them too unless they qualify under the United Nations definition of a refugee. They will have to show good reason to fear persecution in Vietnam.

The Government's policy will be announced soon, but most of the details have already been worked out. The key element is the cut-off date. Boat people who reach Hong Kong before it will be able to hope for ultimate resettlement in a Western nation; those who follow will know that it is only a matter of time before they are sent back. Although

the Vietnamese will be held in camps while awaiting repatriation, for all practical purposes they will be in prison. The change will not affect those already there. Many have been there for years. Conditions in the older camps are grim, with overcrowding, a shortage of toilets and few facilities. Most people have nothing to do.

The policy change has been brought on partly by pressure from the Hong Kong Government and public opinion. But it also reflects the British Government's view that neither it nor the US, Australia, Canada and other nations which have accepted boat people for resettlement wish to continue an open-ended commitment. Sir Geoffrey has referred to a mood of "compassion fatigue".

Sir Geoffrey will also meet the new Chinese Foreign Minister in New York this morning. If the boat people have not been repatriated by July 1997, they will in theory become Peking's problem.

HONG KONG: Britain's Ambassador in Hanoi, Mr Emrys Davies, is expected to brief Hong Kong officials on diplomatic initiatives with the Vietnamese Government over the repatriation question (Reuters reports).



Sir Geoffrey is to ask the Vietnamese Foreign Minister, Mr Nguyen Co Thach, right, to allow boat people to return.



Zia plays election waiting game as he weighs longer-term options

From Michael Hamlyn, Islamabad

As President Zia of Pakistan sits in the shade of the attractive walled bungalow he occupies, Army Chief of Staff in Rawalpindi cantonment, his immediate thoughts must be on forming an interim cabinet. But options in the long-term must weigh heavier still.

Despite his promise of a new administration the day after his surprise constitutional intervention last week, when he dismissed his Prime Minister and National Assembly, he has still not managed to form one. The outlines, though, are fairly clear: he is plainly going

to reintroduce those technocratic experts he feels were once close to him but who were dismissed or demoted by the civilian Government. Thus Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, removed by Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, then Prime Minister, will take over again as Foreign Minister. Similarly Mr Mahbubul Haq seems likely to reassume the finance portfolio from which he was removed by Mr Junejo.

But the President's main attention is now on what follows. He has promised elections within three months and, according to those who claim to know his mind, his final decision will be influenced by

three factors: surprise; a military unwillingness to engage the enemy without the ability to win; and a dedication to Islam which may be compared to Cromwell's dedication to puritan Christianity.

General Zia faces three alternatives: to hold parliamentary elections on a party basis; to hold non-party elections; or not to hold elections at all.

The timing is not so important, though it seems unlikely that an election will be held within the three months. After that it will be the month of Muharram, when traditionally Sunni and Shia Muslims are at each other's throats and

riots are commonplace in Pakistan. And after that farmers will be preoccupied with the harvest.

Moreover in October Miss Benazir Bhutto, leader of the principal opposition group, the Pakistan People's Party, is due to give birth to her first child; and the closer elections are held to that time the more incapacitated she will be. It is certain that there will be very little notice of any elections and an extremely short campaign.

Although Miss Bhutto insisted yesterday that her party would win by a landslide in "free, fair, impartial party-based elections", her party faces disadvantages

bound to encourage the President. First, it has lost its reputation for invincibility. Its performance during local elections last year showed it is capable of defeat.

Secondly, the party can no longer rely on the block votes of organized labour since unions have been emasculated during the 11 years of General Zia's rule.

Thirdly, a strong middle class has developed, with money coming in from the Gulf, Europe, the US and Saudi Arabia. Some of the wealth is derived from the drugs and arms trades which follow the Afghan war. This new class has a strong interest in stability. Even in

its southern stronghold of Sind province, regional and ethnic divisions will weaken the overall appeal of Miss Bhutto's party. It seems highly likely, for example, that the political party of the *mohajirs*, the migrants from India and their descendants, will capture the cities.

Over carried chicken, rice and lentils yesterday, Miss Bhutto told me she was pretty convinced that the President was likely to go for elections on a non-party basis, as in 1985. Her party boycotted those elections, but voices are now strong within the party to take part whatever the conditions.

University protest at Chinese corruption

Peking (Reuters) — Students at Peking University yesterday put up posters attacking the government and the Communist Party as mourning for a murdered student became an open political protest.

The posters criticized Chinese leaders by name, alleged that official corruption had plunged the country into its darkest period and called on students to "sacrifice themselves for democracy".

About 100 posters appeared next to a makeshift shrine of wreaths and a memorial portrait of Chai Qingfeng, whose murder last week close to the campus brought a protest march calling for tough punishment for his killers.

Death appeal

Rangoon (Reuters) — Burma's supreme court is expected to rule within four weeks on the appeal against a death sentence by Thomas Kirkpatrick, a Briton convicted of murdering his wife.

Palme debate

Stockholm (Reuters) — Sweden's Social Democratic Government appeared to be facing defeat on a vote of confidence over its investigation into the murder of Olof Palme, the late Prime Minister.

Blaze protest

Seoul (Reuters) — A student died after setting himself on fire in a protest calling for the reunification of the Korean peninsula and an end to President Roh's Government.

Graduate tax

Hobart (Reuters) — Australian graduates could face higher taxes to raise money for universities after a resolution on funding education was passed by the ruling Labor Party at its annual conference.

Priest killed

Santo Domingo (Reuters) — Two people, including a priest, were killed and nine others wounded when Dominican police opened fire on rioting prisoners.

Car thief dies

Lagos (Reuters) — A Nigerian who stole an American missionary's car at gunpoint has been executed in the northern city of Kano.

Bavadra ministers held after Fiji arms raids

From A Correspondent, Suva

Police in Fiji detained more than 40 ethnic Indians, including two former Cabinet ministers, after several tonnes of weapons were discovered in a series of raids.

The security forces were confident that they had broken a large arms smuggling ring allegedly set up by disaffected Indians wanting to avenge their loss of political power after the overthrow of the multi-racial coalition of Dr Timoci Bavadra in the two military coups last year.

The raids uncovered 93 AK 47 rifles, 14 machineguns, 10 rocket launchers, 300 grenades and ammunition.

The authorities have confirmed that one of those detained was Dr Bavadra's former Foreign Minister, Mr Krishna Datt. He was held overnight at the main police station in Suva.

Supporters of Dr Bavadra's coalition claimed that the former Trade and Industry Minister, Mr Navin Maharaj, was also interrogated but was released.

The raids on seven villages in the Indian-dominated west of the main island, Viti Levu, and Suva, came after the

discovery by Australian customs officials of a similar cache on a Fiji-bound cargo ship in Sydney a week ago.

Fijian police believe that the arms found yesterday represented a large proportion of a consignment smuggled into the country on April 11. Both shipments are believed to consist of Czech-made weapons transported from South Yemen.

Brigadier Sitiveni Rabuka, the armed forces' commander who overthrew the Bavadra government and declared a republic after staging another takeover in October, quickly



Dr Bavadra: Armed struggle 'has never been considered'.

rejected claims that the arms were for his forces, who have been cut off from Fiji's traditional arms suppliers. He said there was an "attempt to destabilize the country with assistance from overseas".

Dr Bavadra, an indigenous Fijian, said yesterday: "Armed struggle has never been considered by us."

©Sydney: A link between the arms seized in Fiji and the shipment uncovered here was established yesterday when Taimud Ahmed, a Fijian-Indian aged 37, appeared in Sydney Central Court charged with conspiracy relating to "an intention to engage in a hostile activity in a foreign state" (Christopher Morris writes).

The court was told the charge concerned the illegal shipment of two containers of arms — one of 10 tons on April 11, and the other a proposed shipment of 12 tons intercepted at Darling Harbour here eight days ago.

The alleged mastermind of the plot was identified in court as Mohamed Kahan, aged 46, from London. Kahan fled from Sydney within hours of the arms being discovered.

Ousted rival challenges Lini

From Humphrey Hawksley, Port Vila, Vanuatu

More than two weeks after unprecedented riots about tribal land rights, the future of Father Walter Lini, the Prime Minister of Vanuatu, is still uncertain.

There is a continuing challenge to his leadership from a dismissed Cabinet minister, Mr Barak Sope — a man who worries the British, Australian and other Western governments, not least because of his links with Libya.

One person died in the riots, about 80 were arrested and shopfronts in the city capital were smashed. This political violence was the first of its kind since Vanuatu won independence from France and Britain in 1980.

Australia sent extra riot control equipment and two naval ships stood by, in case the evacuation was necessary. The country's tourist-led economy took a battering, with hotels reporting mass cancellations.

ably in a no-confidence vote. He is lobbying the official opposition and trying to win over members of the ruling Vanuatu Party, of which he is still General Secretary.

Mr Sope, who is in his late thirties, works in secrecy. He has visited Libya several times in the past few years, as have several of his staff. He lives on the island of Ifira in Port Vila Bay; visitors are warned against going there uninvited.

It is not clear how much support he can muster. Land is an emotive issue among Melanesians, and Father Lini has called all his MPs to a special meeting in Port Vila tomorrow.

Western officials are keeping a close watch. Australia, the economic power of the South Pacific, has made clear its support for Father Lini, who telephoned his counterpart, Mr Bob Hawke, for help during the riots. But Mr Hawke is treading carefully so as not to be seen as interfering.

There is more international concern over the type of situation which might be emerging in Vanuatu. The

"vulnerability of small states" is appreciated in the Commonwealth since the problems of Grenada four years ago.

With recent Libyan attempts to win a foothold in Vanuatu and the more overt attempts at economic expansion by the Soviet Union there are fears of similar problems spreading to the South Pacific.

Dr Gerard Henderson, of the Institute of Public Affairs in New South Wales, said: "The very smallness of the nations of the South Pacific and their weak economies make them vulnerable to either the economic seduction of the Soviet Union or the much more bloody-minded operations engaged in by Libya."

Observers also point out that Australia has been caught unaware by the speedy development of events in the area. Just over a year ago — in March 1987 — a government report described the island states as politically stable. Since then there have been two coups in Fiji, violence over independence from France in New Caledonia, and now riots in Vanuatu.

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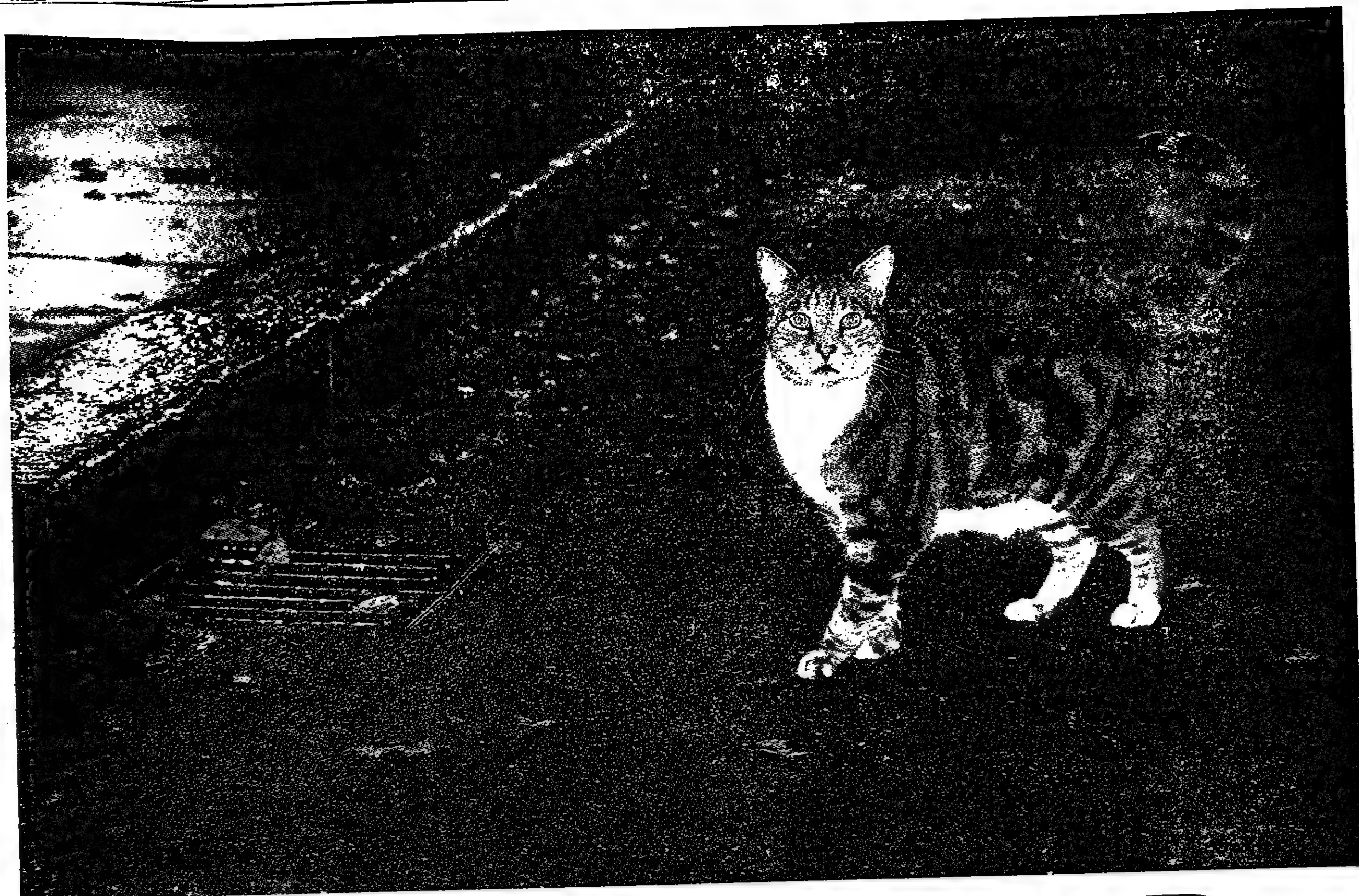
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Our faith in the Carlton is based upon something no other car has. We call it 'Advanced Chassis Technology', or ACT.

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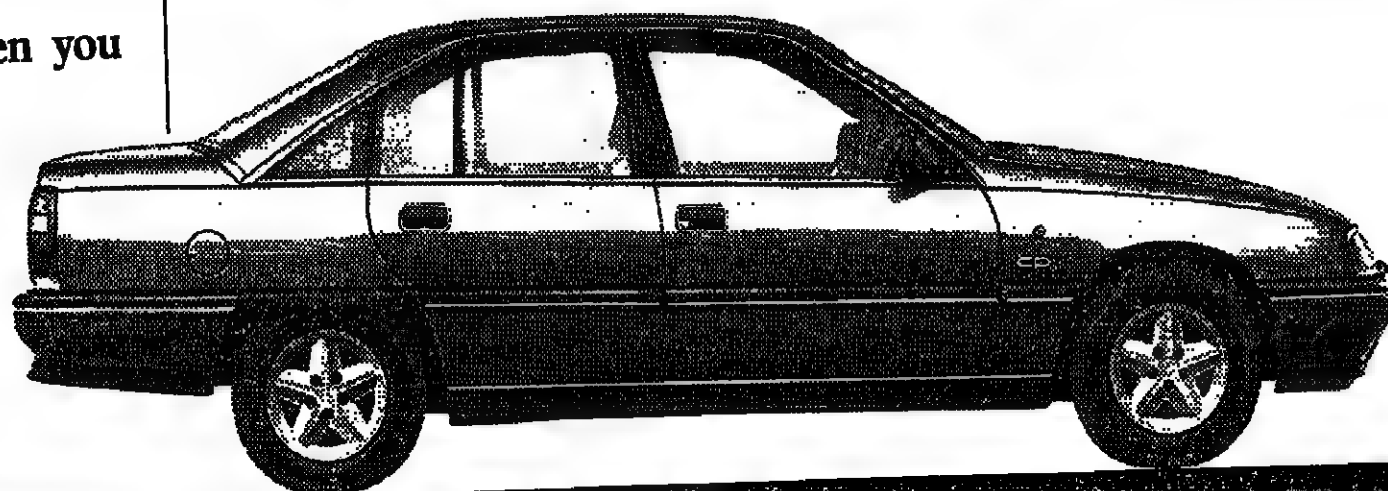
The front seats are orthopaedically designed and what's more, every model also comes with height adjustable seat belts.

Features like this helped the Carlton gain the accolade of Car of the Year 1987. That's all very well for us.

What's more important for you is the knowledge that when you drive a Carlton you're driving a car that's engineered with your safety very much in mind.

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SPECTRUM

Changing the prescription

Until 200 years ago medical education was based on walking the wards, apprentices trailing along in the footsteps of surgeons, whom they were expected to pay, or "dressing pupils" who owed absolute obedience to their masters, the physicians.

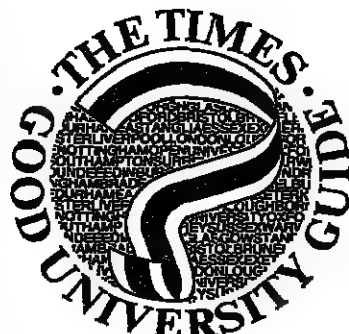
The London Hospital Medical College was founded in 1785 — the first in England — to base medical education on academic study. It is ironic that this year's student intake will be the last at "the London" to put quite such faith in the written word.

The curriculum is being re-drawn for 1989, reducing the academic content of the first two pre-clinical years to give students much earlier contact with patients.

"The issue under debate," says Dr Alistair McDonald, Dean of Medical Studies, "is whether students are expected to learn too much information. They will have had to do that to get good A levels... we take the best of them from that grinding process and do it to them all over again."

"They also suffer from the professional enthusiasms of their tutors. A bio-chemist, say, wants to get across the marvels of his own subject, but all the student needs is enough bio-chemistry to cope. Doctoring is not a science — new doctors must retain a first responsibility to the human being."

"Our advertising for future students is going to have to carry warnings on this: that more responsibility, less simple learning, is going to be thrust upon the next intakes. Many see very few patients in the first two years." Some of the changes will be tested on this year's intake of hopefuls intending to add to the 20,000



● England's oldest medical college is on the brink of a teaching revolution
● What is the students' diagnosis of the new, more practical approach?

Part Seven: Cases for Treatment

doctors and dentists who have already qualified. But it will be too late to help Pragati Gautama, a fourth-year student at this teeming pile in London's East End. "Those first two years were silly. Lots to remember, but no chance to understand." Or Martin Brett: "We were brought to screaming point by the books and the tide of facts."

Each of Britain's 28 medical schools has its own characteristics. Bart's, with its distinct aura of self-esteem. St Thomas's, endless stream of upper middle-class students; St Mary's record of high academic achievement and very good scrum halves; Bristol and Manchester where only the brainiest are admitted; and new-wave centres like Southampton and Nottingham where they already have curricula much like that now planned for the London.

Medical colleges accept just under half the 8,000 applicants who annually declare a wish to become doctors and dentists. London Hospital's share is an intake of 150 (boosted in the third year by 25 students who have done their pre-clinical work at Oxford), selected from 2,000

applicants of whom between 400 to 500 are called for interview. The interview, according to the Dean, Professor Roy Duckworth, is vital — and he is gently scathing about colleges which rely only on examination results to make their selection.

"The withdrawal rate for all universities is about 14 per cent. Our loss is around 8 per cent. That says something about the motivation of our young people. It also says something about our selection process. We ask for two Bs and a C. But we will admit a student with three Cs, if he knows, and can demonstrate he knows, what doctoring is all about. And you can only get that sort of insight by facing the chap at an interview." Dr McDonald takes part in many of the interviews and accepts that the London is not always the first choice.

The college offers 50 per cent of places to women, but they represent only 30 per cent of students. Whitechapel, with its mix of race and its poverty, can be intimidating, he says.

"We can live with that, because the people we get are so motivated." To the ritual question



And how are we today? A group of students at the London Hospital Medical College try out their bedside manner on patient George Dillon

"why do you want to come here?" the London gets a raft of answers. They often reflect a recommendation from men who trained there; or students talk of the great clinical experience to be found... the varied racial mix of the patients, the variety of the disease patterns.

McDonald says: "We do the jobber's work. This is known and, by those who want to join, appreciated. At the interview we are choosing those who fit in, in a sense we are choosing ourselves." A different socio-economic group? "I think, perhaps, yes. You can tell just by the ring of the voices on ward rounds that this is not St Tommy's."

"We are trying to spot who is going to make a good doctor. Whatever that means. It emphatically means something

other than intellect." Did the London accept lesser standards: some medical colleges ask for three As? "We are perhaps less demanding on pure intellect — and may be swayed by other considerations. Any local youngster is bound to get an interview: that means a lot of Bengalis and, because we are way above any demographic norm for racial mix, also a lot of Cockneys."

"We look for people who have shown interest in human beings. Perhaps they've been volunteers pushing a hospital tea trolley. That could mean they're simply stoking up Browne points, but it also shows they are serious about getting into clinical medicine."

"We want people with other interests. Someone who has done all the work to get this far and also plays two instruments is someone who can cope. Finally, we are looking for people who fix..."

Martin Brett has noted changes in fellow students who joined with him four years ago. "Motivation changes as you become better informed. There was an adolescent whiff about some of our views: the joyful process of healing becomes replaced by fairly mechanical disciplines, there is so much emphasis on the correct mode of treatment that a more spiritual approach does not occur."

Student president Linda Harris (who can't quite forgive herself for her answer at interview: "I said I wanted to come here to help people". So inane and pathetic; that's what beauty queens say!) admits to being shocked by the variety of motives of her fellows. "I really did think they'd all be driven by compassion. But there are just as many here because it was what their parents wanted, or to make money."

What of the medical students' reputation for drinking and wild parties? Professor Duckworth says: "My generation — I was here in 1947 — had little social conscience. The modern student has. They know their role in society. All that *Doctor In the House* stuff is very old hat: they have too much work to do, embracing medicine that is now so much more scientific. They go on, or they go. The professional student, paid by his family to hang around for years, is a figure from the past."

Brian James

TOMORROW

Science parks — where research means business

ERRATUM

● Today you have another chance to win one of Cambridge Computer's Z88 portable personal computers.
● Just find the deliberate mistake hidden in the daily question, and tell us the correct version.
● One question will appear each day during the Good University Guide, which ends on Friday next week.
● There are 15 Z88 computers to be won.

There is a deliberate mistake in the following statement. What is it?
The Erlynes or Furles are three in number: Tisiphone, Alecio, and Erato.

Cut out this coupon and send the answer to ERRATUM Day 7, 16 Whitlakers Street, London EC8B 2NG. Each day is a separate contest and requires a separate envelope. You must not send all your entries in one envelope.

ERRATUM

Answer: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

The closing date for all entries is last post on Friday, June 24, 1988. A prize of a Z88 personal portable computer will be awarded to the first correct entry opened for each day's question. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. The winner will be announced in *The Times* on Friday, July 1.

A10Z

Student views are taken either from the *Alternative Prospectuses* or *Student Union* spokesmen.

Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU (01-636 8000). Inquiries: University Entrance Requirements Officer

London University is a federation of more than 40 schools, institutes, medical schools and colleges. More than 100,000 students belong to London University and some colleges have a larger student population than many other British Universities.

The obvious problem facing students in London is the lack of accommodation, but most colleges provide rooms for some of their students. Application is normally made to the individual colleges but the University of London is planning a Federal Open Day on September 27.

MEDICAL SCHOOLS

CHARING CROSS AND WESTMINSTER MEDICAL SCHOOL

The Reynolds Building, St Dunin's Road, London W6 8RP (01-748 2040).

Undergraduates: 880 (Male/Female ratio 4:3).

Description: Formed by a merger in 1994. Five sites linked by live TV teaching system. Excellent recreational facilities.

KING'S COLLEGE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY

Denmark Hill, London SE5 8RX (01-274 6222).

Undergraduates: 715 (M/F 5:4).

Description: Students are taught first two years of their course at King's College itself before transferring to King's College Hospital in Camberwell for final three years.

LONDON HOSPITAL MEDICAL COLLEGE

Turner Street, London E1 2AD (01-377 7000).

Undergraduates: 900 (M/F 2:1).

Description: The oldest medical school in England and Wales with a reputation for producing top medical students.

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Rowland Hill Street, London NW3 2PF (01-794 0500).

Undergraduates: 500 (M/F 1:1).

Description: Based in a modern building overlooking Hampstead Heath, a friendly medical school with a reputation for pioneering work.

ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE

Royal College Street, London NW1 0TU (01-387 2898).

Undergraduates: 340 (M/F 1:1).

Description: The oldest veterinary school in the English-speaking world. Built on two sites, one near King's Cross, the other a 570-acre campus near Potters Bar with a new equine unit and a new Small Animals Referral Unit.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

29-39 Brunswick Square, London WC1N 1AX (01-837 7651).

Undergraduates: 300 (M/F 1:1).

Description: A small school with many of the facilities of London University on its doorstep. Specialized courses are the B Pharm Hons and BSc in Toxicology and Pharmacology.

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL COLLEGE

West Smithfield, London EC1A 7BE (01-606 7404).

Undergraduates: 580 (M/F 1:1).

Description: Hospital dates back to the 12th century. Emphasis placed on communication with patients and medicine in the community. Modern

audio-visual and computing facilities.

ST GEORGE'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL

Cranmer Terrace, London SW17 0RE (01-872 9944).

Undergraduates: 750 (M/F 4:3).

Description: One of the largest medical schools in London with new and well-equipped buildings in Tooting.

ST MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL

Norfolk Place, London W2 1PG (01-723 1252).

Undergraduates: 525 (M/F 3:2).

Description: St Mary's places emphasis on practical training not only in hospital but in the community. A reputation for friendliness and excellent sports facilities.

UNITED MEDICAL AND DENTAL SCHOOLS OF GUY'S AND ST THOMAS'S HOSPITALS

Guy's Campus, London Bridge, London SE1 8RT (01-407-7600), ask for Guy's Campus; St Thomas's Campus, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EH (01-928 9292).

Undergraduates: 1500 (M/F 5:4).

Description: The new school is the result of three recent mergers. Two campuses with a common curriculum. A modern dental school and good library.

PRINCIPAL COLLEGES

GOLDSMITHS' COLLEGE

New Cross, London SE14 6NW (01-892 7171).

Undergraduates: 2,500 (M/F ratio 2:3).

Major courses: Communication Studies, Art and Design, Humanities, Education, Modern Languages, Performing Arts, Mathematics, Social Sciences. Popular courses include

Psychology, Textiles, English, English with Drama.

Description: An attractive 19th century building set among the tower blocks of New Cross. A new £3 million library will soon be completed. Accommodation guaranteed for first years in Halls of Residence. Strong on creative and performing arts.

Student view: "Central London is only 10 minutes away by train. However, the SU bar is a cultural oasis offering the best college gigs in London."

Famous graduates: Mary Quant, Marilyn Rees, Graham Sutherland.

Open days: None this summer.

IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

South Kensington, London SW7 2AZ (01-589 6111).

Undergraduates: 3,410 (M/F 5:1).

Major courses: Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Aeronautical Engineering, Computing Science/Software Engineering, Biochemistry.

Description: In the centre of South Kensington next to the Royal Albert Hall and Hyde Park. Has an international reputation in the sciences. First years living outside London postal districts are guaranteed university accommodation.

Strong on rowing and sports and active in music and drama.

Student view: "Accommodation functional, warm and dry. Though attitudes are changing there is still an atmosphere of intolerance. Don't expect wild parties every night but do expect to meet people and form friendships."

Famous graduates: Sir John Egan (Jaguar cars), Joan Rudnick, H.G. Wells.

Open days: June 30 and July 1 (Chemistry/Biochemistry), July 6 (Engineering).

KING'S COLLEGE

Strand, London WC2R 2LS (01-836-5454).

Undergraduates: 4,675 (M/F 5:4).

Major courses: Medicine, Law, Pharmacy, Electronic and Electrical Engineering.

Description: One of the largest London colleges through a merger in 1985 with Queen Elizabeth and Chelsea colleges. Its main site is in the Strand but other departments situated in Kensington, Chelsea and Denmark Hill. Most first years offered accommodation.

Famous graduates: Susan Hill, Chapman Pincher, Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Student view: "Very good academic reputation. Social life and extra-curricular activities excellent."

Open days: July 11-15 (Engineering workshop), July 13 (Dental School).

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE (01-405 7886).

Undergraduates: 2,050 (M/F 60:40).

Major courses: Sociology, Economics, Law, Politics & International Relations, Accounting and Finance, Management Sciences.

Description: The LSE is a cosmopolitan institution with an international academic reputation. Rooms provided for around one quarter of the students. Politically active SU with new bar and cafe.

Student view: "The LSE is a unique, invigorating and exciting place with excellent academic standards. However, it is not the place to go if you want the grandeur of an Oxford style college."

Famous graduates: Edwin Currie MP, J.F. Kennedy, Rt Hon John Moore MP, Pierre Trudeau.

Open day: September 23.

● Compiled by SARA DRIVER

Tomorrow: The rest of London

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Swinging from tree to family tree

Paper-and-pencil methods look likely to replace computers in solving the mysteries of human ancestry. In what they claim is the most exhaustive analysis of the genetic material of apes and humans so far carried out, American researchers have thrown away their computer programs in favour of a simpler, newly developed, technique which shows that human beings are more closely related to chimpanzees than to any other species of ape.

Deciding which of the great apes is our closest animal relation has been a problem for decades. Until now there has not been a wholly convincing solution, despite ever more sophisticated computer programs to compare ape and human genes.

One reason, according to the new research, is that different primate genes evolve at wildly different speeds, even if they are next to each other on the chromosome. Discarding their results in the latest issue of

Molecular Biology and Evolution, Richard Holmquist of Berkeley, Michael Miyamoto of the University of Florida, and Morris Goodman of Wayne State University in Detroit say that coming to terms with genes that evolve at different rates is an important theoretical advance.

While most techniques have to assume that genes all evolve at the same rate, to keep the mathematics within reasonable limits of simplicity, the new method gets round this limitation, so that differences in rate can be tackled (rather than avoided in the interests of easy computation).

The researchers pooled data from three DNA sequences in each of four species: humans, chimpanzees, gorillas and orang-utans. Two of the DNA sequences were from the chromosomes genes that code for globins, a family of proteins which includes the components of the haemoglobins in red blood cells. The third came from the tiny



JOHN LAWSON

bodies in the cell called mitochondria.

These are the energy power-houses of the cell, and contain their own DNA for making some of the proteins they use producing energy from the oxidation of nutrients. Their DNA is quite independent of the DNA in the chromosomes of the nucleus (including the

globin genes) and evolves much faster. This goes against fossil evidence, which some researchers believe shows that chimps and gorillas share an ancestry quite distinct from that leading to humans. The precise timing of the branching points in the ancestral tree are uncertain, but the data suggest that if the chimp and human lines diverged about five million years ago, then the ancestors of the gorilla had already split off from this line around three quarters of a million years earlier.

Previous gene analyses have not been able to work out a convincing ancestral tree, because the variation in the speeds at which different genes evolved could not be handled by the programs. The differences now revealed are startling. One of the two globin sequences evolved three and a half times faster in the chimp lineage than in the line leading to humans, while the other globin sequence — practically a next-door neighbour

on the chromosome — evolved more than twice as slowly. Some genes might evolve faster than others because their structures allow them to mutate more easily.

The researchers say that matching different evolutionary speed with different kinds of gene is their next target. The method employed in the new analysis was developed by James A. Lake of the University of California, who has already used it to infer what the earliest living cells were like.

Researchers confidently expect that the Lake's technique may go some way to eliminating a variety of long-standing theoretical problems. Application of Lake's method to human ancestry is set to cause a stir among evolutionary theorists meeting in Bari, Italy, this week to discuss human evolution.

Henry Gee

© Nature-The Times News Service, 1988

FASHION by Liz Smith

The simplicity of sophisticated city dressing leaves plenty of scope for baubles, bangles and beads to work their magic

Talismans for a new tribe

In a summer, when simplicity is chic and a simple linen shift is the height of sophistication, the strong, sculpted forms of tribal jewellery work a potent fashion spell.

Take a plain matt jersey T-shirted dress, the understated summer uniform of many smart city dressers, and think of the impact made by adding a single wide cuff of ivory, as worn by the Dinka men and women of the Upper Nile. Massed necklaces of beads, coins and amber, and armloads of clanking bands of silver and ebony, supply a sensuous mix of colour and texture.

Angela Fisher's *Africa Adorned* (Collins, £35) a stunning atlas of the symbolism and craftsmanship of Africa's tribal decorations, has been an inspiration to many jewellery designers. The ivory they use may be synthetic, but the bright stones, glass beads, cowrie shells (fertility symbols), seeds and teeth create an earthy style that looks convincingly real.

The best authentic tribal jewellery can be found in antique shops, but it is expensive. Real amber is rare; a fossilized conifer resin, it smells subtly of honey and lemon. Sec Frères, the amber specialist in Old Bond Street, says prices for the real thing start at £200 for a ring.

Liberty has hoards of authentic jewellery from Africa and Afghanistan, including Turkoman pieces in white metal studded with corneal or glass, and multi-stranded glass bead and bone necklaces from Nagaland, in north-east India. Also at Liberty are Denny Hall's deep cuffs and earrings in stained sycamore.

Molly MacAllan recreates the massed twists of "pound beads", the tiny coloured glass beads from Kenya, for the necklaces she sells in her Knightsbridge shop, Arabesk. At Arabesk you can have them threaded up to your own colour scheme. Prices start at £20 and go up to £120. Arabesk is at 156 Walton Street, SW3.

Kikapu, at the Africa Centre in Covent Garden (38 King Street, WC2), brings in Masai chokers made of copper, brass, seeds and glass beads as well as ebony bangles and necklaces, decorated with giraffes, zebras and elephants. Prices range from £3.99 for a simple bead necklace to £38 for a Masai wedding choker.

Michelle Mangue specialises in ebony, silver, turquoise, jade and coral jewellery. She is displaying one-off designs by two French jewellers: amber and turquoise necklaces by Azur Kalli, and pieces in rosewood and ivory by Catherine Noll. Mangue is at 20 Kensington Church Walk, W8, and 165 Draycott Avenue, SW3.



Above: Strapless tunic in scalloped and embroidered natural Irish linen, £165; Capri pants, £88, Pru Bowyer; Liberty, Regent Street, W1; Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW3; Lisa Stirling, Glasgow. Shell and bone bead and disc necklace, £19.95; dark brown wood earrings with beaded tassels, £11.95; wide natural wood bangle, £6.95; rounded and flat bamboo bangles, £5.95 each; all from Fenwick, 65 New Bond Street, W1 and mail order (01-629 9181). Three ivory-coloured bangles, £3.95 each; Pellini; mother-of-pearl bracelets, £4.95 each; Pellini; air black rattan and metal bracelets, £9.50 each; wide ivory armlet, £280; all from Liberty, W1.

Right: Linen double-breasted dress, £140, Hobbs, 37 Brompton Road, SW3 and branches nationwide. Purple and green stained sycamore bead necklaces with silver-plated tassels, from £108-£160 each, Denny Hall for Rifat Ozbek; Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1; A la mode, 36 Hans Crescent, SW3. Silver-plated openwork earrings with ebony drop, £90, Denny Hall for Bruce Oldfield, 27 Beauchamp Place, SW3; Liberty, W1; Harvey Nichols, SW1. Pale wood stranded bracelet on elastic, £5.95, Fenwick, W1.

Make-up by Philippe Pellagaud
Hair by Anna Longaretti for Edmonds, 40 Beauchamp Place, SW3
Photographs by STEVE HUGHES

PEOPLE

Pearly kings

The multi-stranded pearl choker, once the camouflage of the wobbly-throated dowager, has been rehabilitated by the Princess of Wales as an essential in every chic woman's wardrobe. Ciro, the pearl specialist who started business in 1917 selling mock pearls by mail order, make chokers to measure using imitation or cultured pearls, or the real thing spontaneously made by the oyster (prices from £120 for two strands of imitation pearls, plus clasp).

The high-fashion status of the Ciro chain, with its 41 shops in stores across the country as well as branches in Europe and the US, is confirmed with the opening last week of a new jewel box of a branch in that elegant stretch of Bond Street which has become the ghetto for serious gems. Smack opposite Asprey and a step or two up from Cartier, Ciro is unabashed about displaying its top-quality copies of many well-known pieces of jewellery, such as the Duchess of Windsor's legendary panther pins. When Ciro's chain, the man-made stone that matches a diamond for sparkle, is set in real gold by Ciro's craftsmen, the only giveaway of its origins is the price (from £30 to £3,000). The new Ciro shop is at 9 New Bond Street, London W1.

The In thing

An indication of the age of Harrods' offspring has always been its name, Way In. The fourth floor nursery of youthful style, opened in the Swinging Sixties, is 21 today. Celebrations include commemorative T-shirts by today's designers, including John Richmond, Body Map and English Eccentrics - at the very 1988 price of £21. Anyone spending £100 or more will be given a Paul Smith T-shirt. It is not simply Mary Quant's cosmetics that are constant bestsellers at Way In. The mini, circa 1968 as well as today's versions, will be included in fashion shows being held at 11.30am, 2.30pm and 4.30pm this Saturday.

Touch of mink

Paul Wong, a 21-year-old from Hong Kong, was judged Best Potential Fur Designer in the Saga Design Awards just announced. Fur plays a major role in Hong Kong's vibrant fashion industry, and Wong, a third year student at St Martin's School of Art, impressed the judges (who included designer Joan Paul Arison of Revillon in Paris and myself) with his technical skills and clever use of colour. His demibuff Saga mink waterfall-collared coat and short swing coat in green mink won prizes. Other Saga award-winners are Tonia Brazier, Lisa Turner, William Chan, Candace Beacon and Keren Stewart.

It's shoe business

Rayne, famous for covering royal feet for 50 years, has new owners and an exciting future

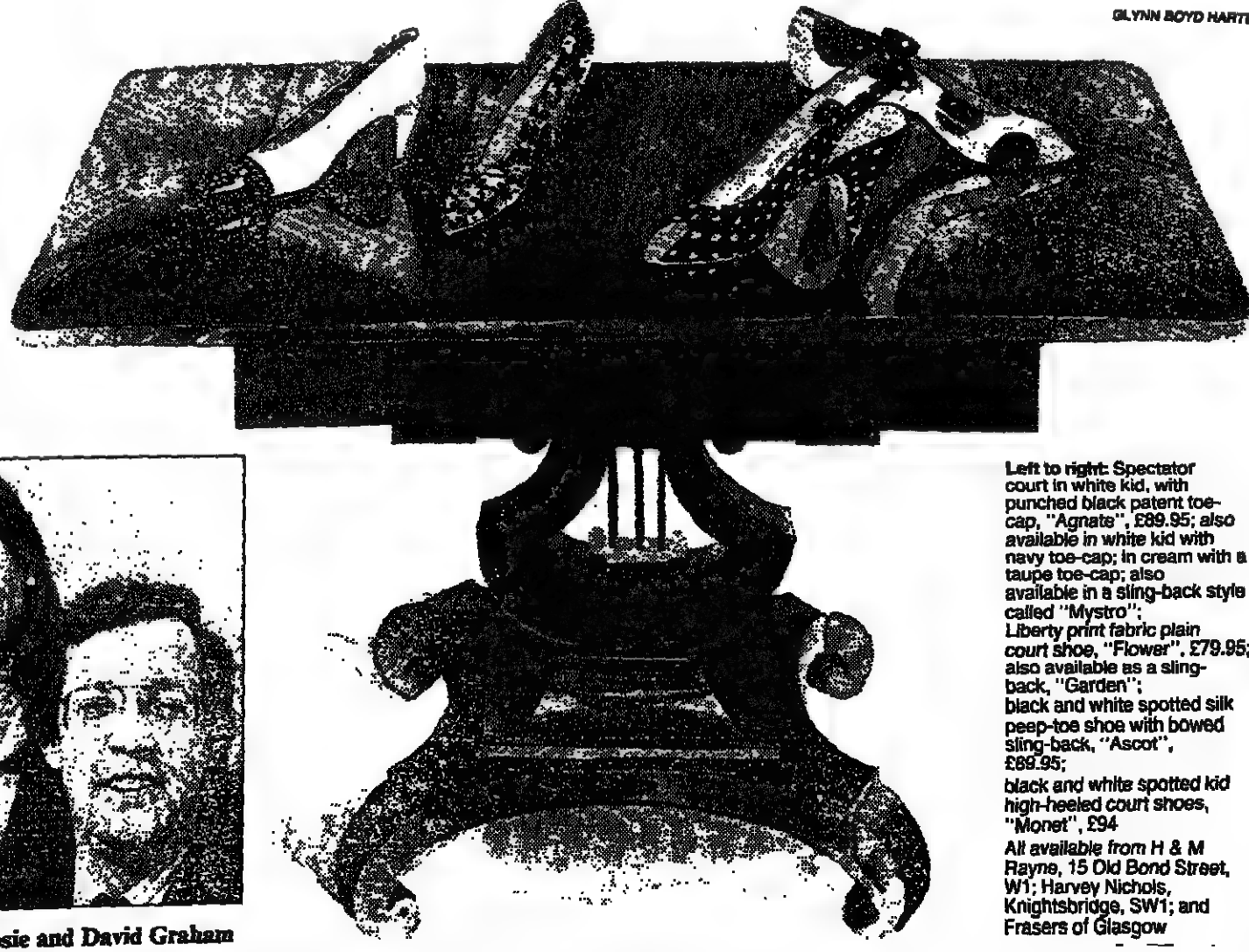
As polka-dotted high heels sink into the Ascot turf next week and silhouettes teeter across the paddocks, top racegoers in the Royal Box will be comfortably - and prettily - shod in courts custom-made for them as ever by Rayne.

Shoemakers by royal appointment for more than 50 years, Rayne steps gracefully into its 100th year in business by continuing to contribute to the serenity of their royal customers who have to spend long days on their feet. It is all serenity, too, back at Rayne's King's Cross base despite the major upheavals in recent months. The company's centenary celebrations next year and its radical new direction are being masterminded by total newcomers to the business - David and Rosie Graham, the husband and wife partnership who today own Rayne.

Rayne has always been a family business. Founded in 1889 by Henry and Mary Rayne and part of Debenhams (subsequently the Burton Group) since 1973, it had been run by their grandson Edward Rayne. In a move to their grandson's manufacturing division in a retailing group, Rayne was sold last August to David Graham, a property millionaire and founder of Passport Travel.



Footnote: Rosie and David Graham



stores and with plans for a major export drive. The airy King's Cross factory hums with industry. Order books are full. Craftsmen, many of whom have been with the firm more than 40 years, hand-last and finish the traditional court shoes and pretty sling-backs that are being designed under the direction of Graham's wife Rosie.

The Grahams feel privileged to be in charge of the Rayne heritage, with its archives of historical footwear that include shoes made for Lillie Langtry, Vivien Leigh and Marlene Dietrich. One pair of black patent pumps with a flat grosgrain bow, best sellers for 40 years, were designed for Gertrude Lawrence. A pair of tiny satin sandals worn by the Queen on her wedding day are displayed in the showroom. Rayne makes shoes for the Princess of Wales

and Princess Anne as well as for the Queen and the Queen Mother, all on their personal lists. The spotted silk and flower-print sling-backs, peep-toed or closed, that are in this summer's range, as well as the elegant new punched brogues, courts and laced-up Gibson styles, are all Rosie Graham's contribution. No shoe is approved before it is tried on by her. "I am crazy about comfort," she said, twisting her ankle to show off the Ava Gardner, a new deep-scooped style. She hurries on to demonstrate a range of clip-on trims that create a wardrobe of styles from one basic pair. A velvet bow is clipped on to sit smoothly on the vamp. Twisted and clipped on upside down the bow transforms the shoe into a high-tongued Cavalier pump.

The refitting of Rayne's Old Bond Street shop losing its Oliver Messel décor upset conservationists, but the Grahams are anxious to explain they are not revolutionaries. "We are proud of the Rayne name and we believe it has great potential," David Graham says.

Although the UK's £3 billion-a-year shoe business is monopolized by cheap imports, the world still looks to Britain for high-quality crafted leather shoes. However, these are mainly men's. The Grahams with Rayne may change that. Shops are being redesigned and there will be Rayne stockings and tights and an expanded range of handbags. Rayne already provides a bursary to Cordwainers College in Hackney. To celebrate the centenary, the Grahams have announced a competition for young shoemakers to design a small line of Rayne shoes for the 1989 winter range.

LIFE'S A BEACH IN



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MR KINNOCK'S APOSTASY

Taking the US-Soviet thaw as his opportunity, Mr Kinnock has decided that Labour's former unilateralist defence policy is now "redundant" (his word). The decision has provoked inevitable outrage within the party, but Mr Kinnock was probably wise to confront it sooner rather than later. If Labour is to have a chance at the next election, the dispute cannot be escaped.

By declaring that unilateralism is to be expunged from Labour's agenda and replaced by something which offers a closer connection with political reality, Mr Kinnock has deliberately associated the issue with the challenge to his own leadership — and Mr Roy Hattersley's deputy leadership — by Mr Tony Benn and Mr Eric Heffer. Assuming they win, Mr Kinnock and Mr Hattersley can now claim that the new defence posture has the implied assent of the party. Even if Mr Hattersley were defeated by his other more likely challenger, Mr John Prescott, this could be taken as a verdict on Mr Hattersley personally, not on defence policy.

As things stand, Labour is still committed by its last manifesto to decommissioning Polaris, cancelling Trident and closing US nuclear bases in Britain. Such a policy would have disastrous repercussions for Nato and was one of the reasons for Labour's rejection by the voters last June. Since then Mr Kinnock has been working gingerly for a change on pragmatic grounds.

That has not been easy. The manifesto had been a mildly fudged version of an even more extreme unilateralist position laid down by the party conference. Even at the post-election conference last October, the non-nuclear policy was reaffirmed. Although Mr Kinnock and his friends were suggesting that "non-nuclear" could mean something less than unilateral disarmament, the unilateralist mood was clear.

Meanwhile, Mr Kinnock had not abandoned the justification for unilateralism with which he regaled President Reagan and the British voters before the election: that the cost of nuclear weapons prevented adequate spending on conventional forces. But at a meeting of the

Socialist International in Madrid last month, he hinted at a change of policy, declaring that Britain and its allies must maintain defence forces capable of resisting and deterring any potential military threat. Now we have it straight out. Labour need no longer give "something for nothing", as Mr Kinnock now happily describes his old policy. It can trade something for something.

Once again the abiding truth of Labour politics is revealed. Every Labour leader who has achieved real power has had to rise in the party by preaching the gospel of the left, and nobody can preach a gospel convincingly without in some degree believing in it. But each has had to abandon his party's instinctive beliefs in search of power. Mr Kinnock is no exception.

As Mr Benn pointed out yesterday, it is an odd sort of logic for the Labour leader to wish to give up nuclear weapons when the Cold War is at its height and keep them when it is not. Still, it is an illogicality which (unpalatable though it is to Mr Benn) represents a kind of progress. Unhappily, it is not a recipe either for a united party or for a stable government.

Mr Kinnock is managing his party with Wilsonian skill. While interim policy reports are being produced for this year's party conference, defence has been postponed until 1989, by which time it is no doubt hoped that the party will be acclimatised to change. Eventually, however, the unilateralist policy that was made by the conference has to be reversed by the conference and it remains to be seen whether it can be done.

Mr Kinnock will face storms which are bound to shake further public confidence in the inner nature of the party he leads. Even some on the soft left who accept the need for a modification of defence policy resent his adoption of the Owenite practice of announcing policy first and confronting the matter in the National Executive Committee and the party conference second.

Mr Kinnock can say that the policy must be changed because the world has changed. His chief problem is that his party activists show no sign yet of having changed with it.

THE DEFLATED POUND

Lawsonomics was on display again yesterday with another 0.5 per cent increase in bank base rates to 8.5 per cent — the second rise in four days. The markets should be reassured by the promptness with which recent cuts in interest rates have been reversed now that sterling is no longer the height of fashion.

Still an open question, however, is whether downward pressure on inflation is now sufficient. The Bank of England remarked in its latest *Quarterly Bulletin* three and a half weeks ago that the combination of a stronger currency and lower interest rates was not ideal. It must therefore feel some satisfaction with the new circumstances of a weaker currency and higher interest rates. This is clearly a better combination when exports are weakening and domestic demand remains too strong. But the present combination may still fall some way short of ideal for anyone, including the Bank, concerned about inflation.

The Treasury explained the latest rise in rates as a move to tighten monetary policy. It is self-evident that monetary conditions are now tighter than they were on Friday, but they are not necessarily any tighter than they were before sterling was uncapped on March 7. The pound was then at DM3, nearly 10 pence below its present level, but interest rates were 0.5 per cent higher, at 9 per cent. If counter-inflationary policy was too lax then, it may still be too lax now.

A comparison with policy last summer is even more striking. At the beginning of August, the Chancellor surprised the markets by raising base rates from 9 per cent to 10 per cent — a full 1.5 per cent above their present level — in order to curb inflationary pressures in the economy. The average value of the pound was then somewhat lower, exerting less downward pressure on inflation. But house prices were rising more slowly than they are now; the balance of payments deficit was smaller and

the money supply was growing within its target range.

With hindsight, it might have been better to raise interest rates by a full 1 per cent last week rather than in two stages of 0.5 per cent each. The impact of interest rate changes on expectations derives not only from their cumulative size but from the way in which they are implemented — from their shock effect. The caution of the authorities is understandable, however, in the face of the dramatic swings in exchange rates. The change in sentiment with regard to sterling was not as clear then as it is now. Even now, poor US trade figures next week could switch attention away from the dollar again — to the benefit, perhaps, of the pound.

Over time, the Chancellor is probably correct to believe that linking sterling to the Deutschmark will prove a good counter-inflationary strategy. The President of the West German Bundesbank, Herr Karl-Otto Poehl, reiterated his determination to maintain a strong Mark only last weekend. Although the increasingly volatile movements in exchange rates make the pursuit of a stable exchange rate more difficult, exchange rate stability is still the best available monetary policy in an imperfect world.

In choosing the mix of exchange rate strength and interest rates, however, the Chancellor must not lose sight of his commitment to reduce inflation eventually to zero. Keeping the exchange rate stable is a good policy if stability is at the right level and if it is accompanied by appropriate counter-inflation policies in the rest of the world. Progress in bringing inflation permanently down below the 4 per cent level of recent years has been slow to non-existent. A further rise in interest rates may be necessary before the Government can be confident of bringing inflation down another notch.

THE DUKE'S DILEMMA

California, the golden state, will probably crown Mr Michael Dukakis the Democratic Party's presidential candidate, as Americans vote in the last four primaries today. But the man who is most likely to come second, the Rev Jesse Jackson, could determine whether he enters the Oval Office.

The staying power of Mr Jackson during the marathon of the primaries has made him a more impressive candidate than he looked at the outset. He has made it known that he would like to be rewarded with the chance of running alongside Mr Dukakis for the vice-presidency.

Should Mr Dukakis take on Mr Jackson, he will take on a partner whose position is well to the left of his party's platform. Should he say no, he will risk alienating the powerful black electorate. On such calculations are political leaders made or broken.

Mr Dukakis has to capture the middle ground if he is going to win the presidency. So doing was President Reagan's success in so doing which brought him his overwhelming victory which brought him his overwhelming victory which brought him his overwhelming victory.

As an ethnic Greek whose forebears were poor immigrants, he has a liberal reputation of his own. Mr Jackson might invoke the memory of Mr Robert Kennedy, assassinated 20 years ago yesterday. But it is Mr Dukakis who more closely reflects that image of Boston liberalism. He has also spent time courting black Americans, though so far with little obvious success — except in his own state of Massachusetts.

Once Mr Jackson has departed, the poor,

whose cause he has so vigorously espoused, have no clear alternative to Mr Dukakis. Mr George Bush, the Republican nominee, remains the heir presumptive of President Reagan. Mr Bush may try to distance himself from the less glowing of the present President's achievements, but he still represents a tradition well to the right of Mr Dukakis.

Even in California, which has voted Republican in eight of the last nine presidential elections, Mr Dukakis is comfortably ahead of Mr Bush in the opinion polls. Ten years since Proposition 13, the referendum which cut excessive state spending, Californians are said to be viewing favourably the prospect of more public control and environmental care.

Mr Dukakis has been very circumspect so far about his running mate, pointing out that any vice-president should be worthy of the presidency itself. That may be a tactful way of explaining why he does not want Mr Jackson. But he might feel obliged to adopt some of Mr Jackson's policies — thus buying the support of his most formidable rival who, whatever his electoral deficiencies, must now be reckoned a powerful party figure.

How far Mr Dukakis needs to do this is one of the indicators he might look for in the results of today's four primaries. In California, for instance, the rapidly rising population of Hispanics, blacks and Asians have a poor turnout record in elections. If minorities throughout the United States became seriously disaffected with both candidates, they might simply stay at home. In an election which promises to be close, this could be disastrous for Mr Dukakis. How well they respond today, both for Mr Jackson and for himself, could determine how "the Duke" solves his dilemma.

Implications of Rowntree bids

From Mr James Cunningham
Sir, In your issue of May 26 you give the text of Lord Young's statement explaining his reasons for not referring the bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission:

... the main consideration is the effect of the merger on competition. Neither of these proposals raises competition issues which justify a reference. Nestlé and Suchard have only 3 per cent and 2 per cent, respectively, of the UK chocolate market.

That may be valid so far as existing competition is concerned, but it does not take account of the future, of potential competition.

Nestlé and Suchard are apparently each prepared to pay over £2 billion to acquire the Rowntree brands. If each were unable to acquire these Rowntree brands, they would be forced to build up their own competing brands. Even if each spent only one half of what each is prepared to pay for Rowntree, that would be an enormous stimulus to competition in the chocolate market and so benefit consumers.

One is forced to the conclusion that our present merger policy is deficient, if it does not permit investigation of possible future competition.

Yours faithfully,
J. P. CUNNINGHAM,
43 Foxes Dale,
Blackheath, SE3.
May 27.

From Mr W. T. Hutton
Sir, Every true Briton must share Sir Hector Laing's concern (article, *Business and Finance*, June 2) that the fate of so many of our finest companies is now virtually dependent on the whims of a mere handful of institutional managers.

While Sir Hector rightly does not call for any remedial change in our capital system, Government must surely realise that the concentration of effective power in so few hands is a denial of democratic control and a measure of the extent to which monopoly power can distort the market.

Within a few years Government may well have surrendered both authority and influence in the matter of employee and customer protection. The Department of Trade and Industry would, of course, be largely redundant but this would be only a small saving against the irreparable loss to the national interest.

Yours faithfully,
W. T. HUTTON,
8 Sutherland Avenue,
Peters Wood,
Oxprington, Kent.
June 2.

From Mr A. T. Grove
Sir, About one half of the world's supply of cocoa comes from smallholders in four west African countries: Ivory Coast, Ghana, Cameroon and Nigeria. The first three are heavily dependent on income from this commodity; all of them, in some need of foreign exchange, have seen the price of cocoa decline steadily since the beginning of the year to about 50 pence per lb.

The world price for coffee, on which Ivory Coast, Cameroon and many other African countries, above all Ethiopia and Uganda, rely for foreign exchange, is at a similar low level. Coffee and cocoa are each worth about £1 billion to Africa, a considerable sum in comparison with its income from aid and other sources.

The livelihood of hundreds of thousands of Africans may depend on the conduct of the companies involved in the current bids by Nestlé and Suchard for Rowntree. Yours faithfully,
A. T. GROVE,
Downing College,
Cambridge.
May 31.

Weather — or not?

From Councillor Mrs Pat Dean
Sir, Before the last two public holidays weather forecasters have foretold of heavy rain in the south of England. In fact, we in Poole have had a very sunny weekend on both occasions, as the holiday-makers on our golden sands will affirm.

I am forced to the conclusion that these inaccurate forecasts are given in an attempt to dissuade people from travelling south, thus reducing congestion on the roads. Fortunately it would appear, from the number of visitors we have had, that others like myself have seen through this ploy! Yours faithfully,
PAT DEAN,
52 Branksome Court,
Western Road,
Canford Cliffs,
Poole, Dorset.
May 31.

Church and Tories

From Professor J. F. Pickering and Canon Michael Wilson
Sir, Your leader, "Minds made up", on June 1 refers to a letter signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the Church of England Board for Social Responsibility. As members of that board we wish to make it clear that the contents of the letter have not been discussed with the board and consequently can only be assumed to represent the views of the signatories to it.

Yours faithfully,
J. F. PICKERING,
MICHAEL WILSON,
30 Huxley Drive,
Bramhall, Cheshire.
June 1.

Coping with casualties of war

From Dr Anthony Hopkins

Sir, Major-General Sir John Hackett (June 3) and Mrs Rosemary Calder-Smith — "Sophie's" mother — (June 4) have written in your columns of their displeasure and distress about the film *Tumbledown*, a record of the difficulties and disappointments suffered by Robert Lawrence, wounded in the Falklands war. I know none of those concerned, nor have I seen Mr Lawrence professionally, but I believe that the following point should be made.

The effects of a brain injury are quite different from those of injuries, however severe, that affect other organs. By their very nature, brain injuries affect emotion, judgement, social control and, not least, insight.

The relatives of those severely brain-injured by car and motorcycle accidents in civilian life will bear testament to the difficulties they face in helping the brain-injured person retain some semblance of normal social integration.

It is meaningless therefore to "blame" Mr Lawrence for the way he has presented his life since his wounding, any more than it is sensible to blame a man for having a wooden leg.

Criticism of any lack of balance in *Tumbledown* should be directed at the producers, who should have

been aware of these aspects, rather than at Mr Lawrence.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY HOPKINS,
Department of Neurological Sciences,
St Bartholomew's Hospital,
West Smithfield, EC1.
June 5.

From Mr A. G. L. Lowe

Sir, When I was started in 1939 I was a Territorial gunner officer. In August, 1944, while with an attacking infantry company in Normandy, I was severely wounded in the face.

By the genius of the surgeon, the late Sir Harold Gillies, over a period of four years and about 50 operations I was mended and back in the world.

Mutilated and unable to speak, but terrified of pity, I broke my engagement, and for many months it was hard to endure the embarrassed stares of people confronted with disfigurement.

None the less, it never occurred to me to complain, as so many of my friends were dead and, by comparison with the dreadful scars of the burned airmen and tank crews, I was fortunate.

I think Robert Lawrence, by comparison with others, has been fortunate, and he should, like me, thank God that he is still alive.

Yours faithfully,
AUGUSTUS LOWE,
Folly Cottage,
Puddington, Cheshire.

Aids testing

From Professor Emeritus Philip Rhodes

Sir, Anonymous testing for HIV infection will increase understanding of its epidemiology. But clinical practice requires that as much as possible should be known about the individual patient. Epidemiological evidence does not help with this. To know what is wrong with a patient, tests have to be done which can be related to the particular person.

In ante-natal care a battery of tests is carried out on blood in order that the health care professionals may properly and promptly treat the mother and her foetus and child. Yet, presently, on grounds of consent and confidentiality, the testing for HIV infection is being denied. The reasons for

this are social and not medical.

Medical indications for testing for HIV infection in pregnancy are as clear as they are for rubella and syphilis. It is the need to know for the patients' benefit. Present social mores about HIV infection and Aids are denying the sufferers themselves the right to understanding and care.

That there is no cure is irrelevant to understanding and knowledge. Without those two the search for a cure will be delayed. The need is therefore for a change in social attitudes, not medical ones.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP RHODES,
Fairford House,
Lyndhurst Road,
Brockenhurst, Hampshire.
May 27.

Solicitors in court

From Mr Neil Addison

Sir, With all due respect to Lord Denning, his article of May 24 ("Divided we stand") calls for factual corrections. First, Lord Denning notes that the barrister's wig and gown betoken learning and courtesy, the solicitor's plain suit betokens nothing. In fact, barristers wear "plain" suits in exactly the same courts as solicitors — i.e., magistrates courts, tribunals etc. — and both solicitors and barristers robe in the county court, before the European Court of Justice and on the few occasions where solicitors are able to appear in the crown court and high court.

Second, Lord Denning states that "the paramount duty of a barrister is to assist the court... a solicitor is bound to do all he honestly can to win". This is simply wrong. Comparison of *The Code of Conduct of the Bar* and *The Professional Conduct of Solicitors* will show that both professions owe an equal duty of honesty and integrity to the courts before which they appear.

Sign of the cross

From Mr John A. Lane

Sir, Mr Frank Richards (June 2) appears to have overlooked the fact that for every vehicle involved in a fatal accident at one of the spots he suggests designating, there will have been many thousands — perhaps millions — of vehicles driven over the same spot in complete safety.

Nearly all accidents involving road vehicles are caused by bad driving. The only realistic way of improving safety on the roads would be to require more appropriate qualifications of those to whom driving licences are issued; introduce compulsory retraining of offenders who had revealed potentially dangerous driving techniques; and impose exemplary penalties on drivers who indulge in the more lethal forms of bad behaviour, such as drunken or reckless driving.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. LANE,
Springfield, Grove Park,
Stratton, Bude, Cornwall.

Fox Talbot year

From the President of the Royal Photographic Society and others

Sir, Next year, 1989, will be the 150th anniversary of the public announcement of the invention of photography by an Englishman, William Henry Fox Talbot. It is an anniversary which we believe deserves recognition in the form of a special commemorative postage stamp, particularly as the photographic process plays such a vital part in the production of postage stamps. All suggestions to this effect have been turned down by the Post Office, even though it is true that they have offered alternative ways of marking the anniversary.

Celebrations to mark the anniversary will be held throughout the year and in many countries. It is especially ironic that in France, stamps have in the past been issued honouring Louis Daguerre, who also announced the invention of a photographic process in 1839 but whose process became obsolete long ago — unlike that of the Englishman, Fox

Talbot, which remains the basis of photography as we know it today.

Fox Talbot was a great man and his invention is something of which Britain should be proud. The opportunity to proclaim that pride by the issue of a special commemorative stamp will not occur again for a long time.

Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR DOWNES (The Royal Photographic Society),
T. P. ASTILL (National Pharmaceutical Association),
RON BRIMSON (Association of Fashion, Advertising and Editorial Photographers),
COLIN BUCK (Master Photographers Association),
KEITH HARRIS (Association of Photographic Laboratories),
R. J. LEE (British Photographic Importers Association),
LIONEL MORRISON (National Union of Journalists),
JIM TAMPIN (British Institute of Professional Photography),
JOHN WILLIS (Institute of Journalists),
The Octagon,
Milsom Street,
Bath, Avon.
May 31.

Standard of GCSE maths

From Dr J. Shaw

Sir, The much heralded and publicised GCSE examinations are now in progress and I waited eagerly for the first papers in mathematics.

After some 25 years teaching at London University and now after early retirement teaching mathematics at a local independent school I was appalled to see the standard of questions set. At the basic level the questions are banal; in the extreme, e.g. use a calculator to find 3.12×4.36 (and this on paper!).

A number of papers are illustrated with photographs of packets of sweets, children in a paddling pool, etc. which are hardly relevant. The higher-level papers are straightforward and certainly not particularly testing.

Standards have without doubt fallen, despite assurances from various authorities that this is not so, and can only exacerbate a situation which has been felt at university for some time, that children wishing to follow a career where mathematics is an essential requirement are being inadequately prepared at basic level.

The new GCSE may enable average and below average ability pupils to obtain a grade but it does a grave disservice to those who wish to continue in further education. It is these pupils who are so necessary for the future development of our scientific and engineering industries.

Yours faithfully,
J. SHAW,
Goyghy Hyffryd,
Old Llanfair Road,
Harlech,
Gwynedd.
May 27.

Choir losses

From Mr Andrew N. Fairbairn

Sir, Your correspondent's report (May 20) on the annual conference of the Choir Schools' Association is timely, and draws attention to the decline in choral singing in schools and most especially in the near-disappearance of boy trebles from parish church and school choirs. The problem lies in the schools and the churches, and must be tackled jointly by them, at least in some pilot areas.

Except for out-of-school-hours choirs in some secondary schools, choral work has virtually disappeared from the secondary curriculum. GCSE has not helped (as we hoped it would) and the relegation of music to one period a week in the national curriculum, will certainly not help. The supply of tenors and basses for the future, is going to be reduced drastically, unless action is taken now.

The British Federation of Young Chorus hopes shortly to circulate a questionnaire country-wide to find out the facts. In the meantime, we would like to know of incumbents and parochial church councils who would be interested in using the federation's good offices to help forge choral links with local schools — hopefully to mutual benefit.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW N. FAIRBAIRN
(Hon Secretary, British Federation of Young Chorus),
Loughborough Technical College,
Radmoor,
Loughborough,
Leicestershire.
May 25.

therefore no difficulty in arriving at an acceptable capital value which could be used instead. Moreover, since the value would be short of improvements, it would incorporate a reflection of the capitalised value of public services enjoyed by the owner thus relieving the tax to the benefit received.

The rating system is an approximate, and currently the only, attempt to collect the public income which accrues to all property and which untaxed is capitalised into the price. Its replacement by the poll tax will therefore necessarily raise domestic house prices still higher and distort the market further.

Yours sincerely,
M. J. GILBERT,
Michael Gilbert Associates,
116 Wood Street,
Barnet, Hertfordshire.

From Mr S. B. Tress

Sir, Mr Kirwan's letter appears to advocate a return to the Schedule A income tax which was introduced in 1802, and lasted until 1963. Older readers will remember that the tax was levied on net annual values (which corresponded with rateable values). The legislation provided for tenants to pass on the charge to landlords.

In its final years, the tax was under attack from all sides. The main ground for criticism was that it was a tax on notional incomes. Presumably the reasons for its abolition in 1963 would militate against its reintroduction now.

Yours sincerely,
S. B. TRESS,
34 Shelley Gardens,
North Wembley, Middlesex.

All the elevens

From Mrs Patricia M. Young

Sir, I am interested in Mrs McGroar's letter (May 30). I was born in 1911, married in 1933; my daughter was born in 1944 and is 44 today. My husband and I celebrated our 35th wedding anniversary last week and I shall be 77 next month.

Yours truly,
PATRICIA M. YOUNG,
143 Cranmer Court, SW3.
May 31.

THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Testing but fun

Would a young man who claimed to read *The Times* in order to impress people, but really read the *Sun*, make a good naval officer? In *Horizon* (BBC 2) the examination board was divided on this question.

The civilian headmaster took a stern view of the deception, while the senior officers fell for the candidate's charm and were tempted to ignore his poor intelligence test results as well as his frayed moral fibre.

The two-day test process itself was evaluated on forms designed to compensate for this human weakness for likeable candidates with no technical aptitude, the Navy having found this partially expensive in terms of a high dropout rate at Dartmouth. Trust the senior service to do a proper job.

As this enjoyable ramble through modern psychological testing continued, we visited a Midland steel-forgings company with the obverse of the Navy's problem. They had hired a brilliant technical manager without, unfortunately, noticing that he was a pain in the neck.

Meetings were becoming confrontational. Rather than replace the man, at an estimated cost of £50,000, they despatched him to London for psychological assessment and a crash course in emotional literacy, which cost around £2,000.

The programme was less about the tests themselves than the people taking and administering them: in this case, science's loss was entertainment's gain.

What attitude test would pick the ideal pair of personalities to sail around the Indonesian Archipelago on a half-rotten wooden sailing ship crewed by 16 Begi seamen, descendants of the legendary pirates of the Eastern seas?

Naturally, the brothers Lawrence and Lorne Blair, whose fabulous voyage began in *Adventure* (BBC1) earlier in the evening, fell into the category of person called "mad but marvellous" by Prince Charles. For them, sharing bamboo sleeping mats with bedbugs and cockroaches just added to the thrill of it all.

If their crew decided to put ashore for three months for the Begi's wedding season, or sacrificed a goat in their cabin before setting sail again, the Blairs kept joyfully for their cameras to record it all. The result promises to be an enthralling back of programmes, from one of the few cameras of the earth which remains uncorrupted by modern multi-national culture.

Celia Brayfield

John Russell Taylor on the summer shows, headed by a group of Australian artists from the 1940s

Antipodean originals

**Angry Penguins/
Master Paintings
from the Phillips
Collection,
Washington
Hayward Gallery**

**Ukiyoe
British Museum**

**Art or Nature
Barbican Gallery**

**Ikats
Crafts Council Gallery**

**The Decorative Arts
of Central Asia
Zamana Gallery**

**Rubens in Oxford
Colnaghi**



In his Ned Kelly period: "Death of Sergeant Kennedy at Stringybark Creek", 1946, by Sir Sidney Nolan

During the last month, almost unnoticed, the public galleries and museums have been presenting an avalanche of shows to scurry us into summer. Some attempt at a roundup seems to be called for.

Summer shows tend to be on the easy-going side, approachable and hard for anyone totally to dislike. All credit, therefore, to the South Bank Centre for giving us at this time a difficult, demanding and highly rewarding show, *Angry Penguins*, even if they have sugarcoated the pill with the accompanying *Master Paintings* from the Phillips Collection, Washington (until August 14).

The "Angry Penguins", in case you are wondering, were a group of Australian painters, personal friends rather than a coherent school, who in the Forties found themselves somehow grouped around the magazine of that title, which first appeared in Adelaide in 1940, moved to Melbourne in 1943 and finally expired in 1945. The principal figures were Sidney Nolan, Arthur Boyd and Joy Hester. To these, for the Hayward show, have been added some others, including three contemporary realists, Noel Counihan, Noel Counihan and Vic O'Connor.

The central group, despite their denial of any shared theoretical basis for their work, do undoubtedly have a lot in common, and in some parts of the show, like the section where Bruegel-like scenes by Arthur Boyd and John Perceval are hung interspersed, they can be difficult to tell apart. They are all, in a manner of speaking, expressionistic in approach, going for the inner truth of a subject rather than its outward reality.

There are obvious similarities with the later European Cobra movement, and some quite uncanny resemblances between, for instance, early Arthur Boyd and current Ken Kiff (which can, incidentally, be appreciated at Fischer Fine Art until June 24). But it is clear that these painters arrived at their own style in their own way, isolated more even than might normally have been the case by the Second World War, and that, famous though their later work has become (particularly that of Nolan and Boyd), the early work probably exercised little or no influence on anything going on elsewhere.

There is no doubting the freshness of impact these paintings of the Forties still have today, or that Nolan at the time of the Ned Kelly paintings, and Boyd in his night-

marish early paintings of ghosts in the psyche, achieved a peak they seldom subsequently equalled.

For most British visitors this will be the first substantial opportunity to become acquainted with Albert Tucker, who seems to be a very interesting and idiosyncratic artist, or with the realists, who on this showing bear some resemblance to the American New Deal painters but have their own quiet strength.

And for more relaxed viewing one can turn to the right on entry, or go straight upstairs, to the Phillips Collection pictures, and appreciate one of those grab-bags of warranted masterpieces, from El Greco and Chardin to Bacon and Rothko, which are intermittently stunning, according to taste, and almost impossible to write about without falling into flower-sown listings.

At the British Museum, while the familiar gallery normally given over to the Japanese and the Prints and Drawings collection, is being rejigged, the show of Ukiyoe offers "images of unknown Japan" somewhere "buried in the main body of the place. These 'pictures of the floating world'—colour woodcuts from the 17th, 18th and

early 19th centuries, are wholly delightful and sometimes unexpectedly forceful as well, as in Sharaku's portraits of actors.

The Japan they present is, of course, unknown only in a period context: the prints date from the years when Japan was very deliberately kept a closed book to the outside world. For us, today, many of the prints, and the whole genre they represent, will be quite familiar from several distinguished shows the museum has presented in recent years from its own resources.

This particular selection also belongs to the museum, and has just come back from a tour of Japan (not so much like carrying coals to Newcastle as it sounds) to help raise funds towards the new Japanese Gallery, which will rise on the site of the old.

The Barbican is not looking so far afield: the major show associated with its "Images de France" season is a quite comprehensive survey of 20th-century French photography, rather elusively entitled *Art or Nature* (until July 17). Of course all of the photographers included reflect art or nature or both, but then, what else does the photographer ever do?

There is, to be fair, some sort of formal divide down the middle, between the photographers we

GALLERIES

might, for want of a better word, call documentary, and those—the Surrealists—particularly—who have no truck with the external world directly, but reshape its elements nearer to the heart's desire (or the subconscious mind's fantasy). But then, moving one small stage on, we must find something hallucinatory about the unsparing objects by such photographers as Emmanuel Sougez and Jean-Pierre Sudre.

The normally realist Kertész indulges from time to time in highly formalized distortions; the surrealist Raoul Hausmann, in pictures like "Nos Dames de Paris", breaks up and reassembles the facets of Notre Dame to produce a surprising equivalent of Delaunay's exploding Cubist Eiffel Towers. Styles melt into one another, and the show, while imparting a great deal of information, turns out to be much more coherent and consistent than one might ever expect.

Two matching shows, Ikats at the Crafts Council Gallery until June 26 and The Decorative Arts of Central Asia at the Zamana Gallery until July 10, celebrate primarily the textile arts of little-known sections of the Islamic world. An ikat is a kind of woven fabric which looks at a glance as though it has been dyed by some process akin to batik, but in fact the intricate, almost psychedelic colour patterns are produced from dyeing the thread in many hues before it is woven.

Much in both shows seems exotic and at the same time curiously familiar, at least for anyone whose memory stretches back to the Swinging Sixties, when this was just the sort of thing errant hippies brought back from Kathmandu. Not, of course, on the whole such tasteful and spectacular examples, though one of the embroideries at the Zamana did apparently belong at the time to a Rolling Stone. The Zamana collection also includes jewellery, woodwork and other items; each makes a brave, reminiscent show.

And finally, a museum-style show at a commercial Bond Street gallery, Ruskin in Oxford, at Colnaghi until June 20, brings down to the metropolis a small but important collection of Rubens drawings, many never before exhibited, which belong to Christ Church and to the Ashmolean.

OPERA IN FRANCE

Pelléas et Mélisande
Nice Opera

Stefanos Lazaridis's set was a tilted white box filled with spheres, whitened branches and walkways for the somnambulating dead, a dreamplay enclosure. It was potently effective, and with characters dressed in 19th-century costume it brought out the *côte d'Azur* in Debussy's masterpiece.

It also offered a stimulating home for the production by Pierre Medecin, now artistic director in Nice. The whole thing was shown as Golaud's dream, with the poor man slumped in a chair in his library at the far left whenever he was not taking part. There was much extra business and unmistakably meaningful symbolism.

Some of this worked well. The three figures Pelléas and Mélisande discover in the sea cave were Golaud, Arkel and Genevieve, posed like an allegorical grouping on a funerary monument, and the great declaration of love came with Pelléas charging into the pool at the centre of the stage. Other gestures seemed forced. It was difficult to believe in an Yniold taking swigs from Golaud's Johnny Walker.

One might question the real/imaginary antithesis introduced by this being Golaud's dream, for Allemande should be the dream of everyone in the theatre. However, Alan Titus's performance as Golaud was so powerful that he readily seemed more substantial than all the others: in the crucial rage scene he harried his music towards speech, and acted his violence so vigorously that he even got away with the production's substitution of a doll for the real Mélisande at this point.

Then in the last act he was washed-out, quiet and almost stranded in head voice. This was a courageous and thoroughly convincing expressionist Golaud, but also one of much lyrical beauty. Malcolm Walker as Pelléas, though securely in tune, was a little staid and monochrome; the Mélisande was Eliane Manchot (Mme Medecin) and a nameless boy from the Tölz Choir sang out firmly as Yniold.

But, apart from Titus's Golaud, the main musical distinction was John Carewe's conducting, showing up time and again the lustrous string textures, with a precise clarity that enhanced the atmosphere of a gentle unreality.

This was an orchestra at the service of the drama, rushing or hanging back with the pace of speech or heartbeat, particularly in the Golaud-Yniold scene, and limply accepting the frequent caesuras.

Paul Griffiths

Unafraid of risk

CONCERT

LSO/Tate
Barbican Hall

One goes to concerts hoping not to hear the automation accuracy that any shiny little disc can supply, but to experience the sort of passionate, intuitive music making which Nigel Kennedy delivered in Elgar's Violin Concerto on Sunday. Every performance Kennedy gives of this emotionally and physically draining masterpiece (which many of the world's top violinists will not touch, alleging its appeal to be too parochial) is an unrepeatable adventure, exhilarating both in its instinctive flexibility and its riskiness.

Not everything succeeds on a technical level, but that is not essential. Kennedy goes right to the Concerto's heart. He plunges feverishly through the quick passagework, particularly at the end, which seems like an exorcism

of all the shadowy yearnings uncovered in the stillness of the sublime cadenza. Yet he invests the slow melodies with the most tender nuances.

In this gloriously unpredictable mood Kennedy is not the easiest of soloists to accompany, and Jeffrey Tate did well to keep the London Symphony Orchestra more or less in touch with the latest tempo change. But the accompaniment did in places sound lumpy. The same textural clumsiness, and the lack of a single real piano, had earlier upset the carefully calculated instrumental balance of George Benjamin's *Ringed by the Flat Horizon*.

Orchestra and conductor were on sharper form for a performance of Britten's *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* which featured "a new translation by John Amis". I think the term translation may be wrong, but no matter. Amis's new text—ringingly declaimed by Simon Callow—combined wit and information in engaging style.

Richard Morrison

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THEATRE

The Murphy Girls
Drill Hall Arts

Brid Murphy returns from exile in London for a short visit to her family in the Falls Road, Belfast: she is in her mid-thirties, a teacher, living with an English boyfriend. Her elder sister, Aine, teaches at the Dominican convent where as girls they were warned to avoid occasions of sin. Her younger sister, Caitlin, is gaily reproducing, hoping to overcome the Protestant majority by superior birth rate.

Perhaps the first thing you notice about Seamus Finnegan's play, and which sets it apart from most writing about Northern Ireland, is its quiet, unhectored, almost genteel tone. Violence is not ignored (it could hardly be), but as the play's partly Czechoslovakian ancestry might suggest, its main concern is the individual human being, not the political message.

There is also something attractively old-fashioned about Finnegan's writing: the dialogue is beautifully constructed—characters even speak at times in paragraphs, not just minimal sub-sentences. The point is that they are speaking to one another, for one of the odder things about Northern Ireland is that, in a place torn by intestine strife, personal relationships seem often richer than in England.

At the centre of the play is Brid, made to look back to the Belfast Spring of her adolescence in 1968, doused by the nuns' sexual repression and then truncated by the coming of the British troops in 1969. She is thoughtful, individualist, something of a loner—as it seems, anyone from the Falls Road who believes that Ireland's greatest enemy is not the British, but the Roman Catholic church, must be.

Gerardine Hinds most sensitively conveys her sense of not fitting in, of being a stranger both in London and Belfast, together with an inner strength of self-reliance which her sisters do not possess, and an unexpected feisty humour. It is a beautifully inward performance: just at times the voice drops too low for effective projection.

Good, solid, support comes from Jenny Bolt as Caitlin, rejoicing in her fertility (but unfortunately lumbered with a ventriloquist's doll for a baby), Kate O'Connell, sweet, stately and resigned as Aine, and James Greene as their narrow-minded Republican father. Julia Pascal directs.

Harry Eyres

Basic appraisal

Scottish Accents
Traverse, Edinburgh

The Traverse gets more worthwhile scripts in a year than it can afford to produce. This year they have made space for four more than usual by paying rehearsal time and staging in the hope. The resulting *Scottish Accents* series showcases four writers.

John Merryfield has already won an award for earlier work and *The Way We Were* was undoubtedly the most sophisticated here, structurally and linguistically. A ruthless cocaine buyer up an old house from a dominating father and his idiot son. It touches obliquely on family relationships, greed, fear of old age and guilt. The scenes of early Pinter are deftly sketched; Merryfield, for all his technical skill, has still to find his own voice.

Aime-Marie "di Mambro", in Sheila, shows once again her sure touch and good ear for comic dialogue. A blue-stocking student has her work invaded by decorators, who soon show her that there is more to life than ethics essays and philosophy lectures. The older one continuously surprises the economics student by demonstrating that he is not the simple horny-handed son of toil she had assumed. Anyone who can make a satisfying and amusing two hours from such a simple premise is worth watching.

Paula MacGee's *Both Hands Together* wants to get at something deeper: friendship between women from childhood to motherhood. Her characters, Dorothy

and Grace, whip through 15 or 20 years in a succession of quickly changing scenes. Circumstances shift the privilege from one to the other halfway through, but in the end they share the experience of bearing children. MacGee introduces several of her own songs, a device which is marred by the casting of two actresses whose singing talents are ill-matched. But the ups and downs of the relationship are well handled.

The most enthusiastic welcome must be reserved for John McKay's *Dead Dad Dog*, an hilarious play by the return of a young man about to embark on the best day of his life—keenly awaited interview followed by date with new girlfriend—is rarely interrupted by the return of his father, who has been dead these 12 years and who commits the unpardonable sin, for a ghost, of being visible to all.

Quite apart from some terrific one-liners, the play serves as an alarming reminder of how much has changed in the last 12 years almost without our noticing it. McKay manages to keep control of the running gag, so that he can bring the play to a meaningful rather than an arbitrary end. All four plays gain considerably from the care and attention lavished on them by Traverse directors, designers and actors. In *Dead Dad Dog*, Stephen Unwin directed joyously comic performances from Ralph Riach and Sam Graham, who had more fun with four chairs and a change of clothes each than anybody has a right to expect.

Robert
Dawson Scott

Forget the story

OPERA

The Electrification
of the Soviet Union
Glyndebourne

Premiered last autumn by Glyndebourne Touring Opera and televised in March, Nigel Osborne's Pasternak-inspired opera has now graduated to the main festival before travelling to Berlin for the city's celebrations in September.

Peter Sellars has returned to rework his original production. The disconcertingly shifting wall, the cinematic edits and cross-cutting, the splintered and oblique images remain. They are a visual realization of the episodic structure of Craig Raine's drama, sometimes colliding, sometimes meshing with Osborne's powerful, often luscious score.

But, obviously responding to the bewilderment of audiences previously thrown by the flashbacks within flashbacks and the spliced relationships, Sellars has provided us with—guess what?—surtitles. Cryptic phrases on the wall tell us whether it is pre-revolutionary or pre-war Russia, whether anyone is knocking or not (to ribald post-punk laughter), and whether it is raining or snowing.

For an audience trained in conventional linear plots, it all helps: though whether one can honestly claim to be better entertained or more enlightened to the human



Well observed: Omar Ebrahim

condition at the end of it all is another question. Left free to focus less on plot, more on event, significance and sound, there is, at least, more for the ear to enjoy in Elgar Howarth's mastery direction of the score. At its lowest level, it exists as a highly efficient mosaic of sophisticated mood-music; at its highest, it lives as a malleable, richly lyrical and very English vehicle for moments of human insight, which, in true operatic tradition, far out-strip the often crass and self-conscious libretto.

The acting performances are as powerful as ever. Henry Herford's tense Pasternak, Omar Ebrahim's outstandingly observed Serezhia and Elizabeth Laurence's beautifully sung Anna, are now joined by Helen Williams rising from the Chorus to take over at short notice the Anna Steiger's role of Sasha, and Hyacinth Nicholls confident and accomplished as Natasha.

Hilary Finch

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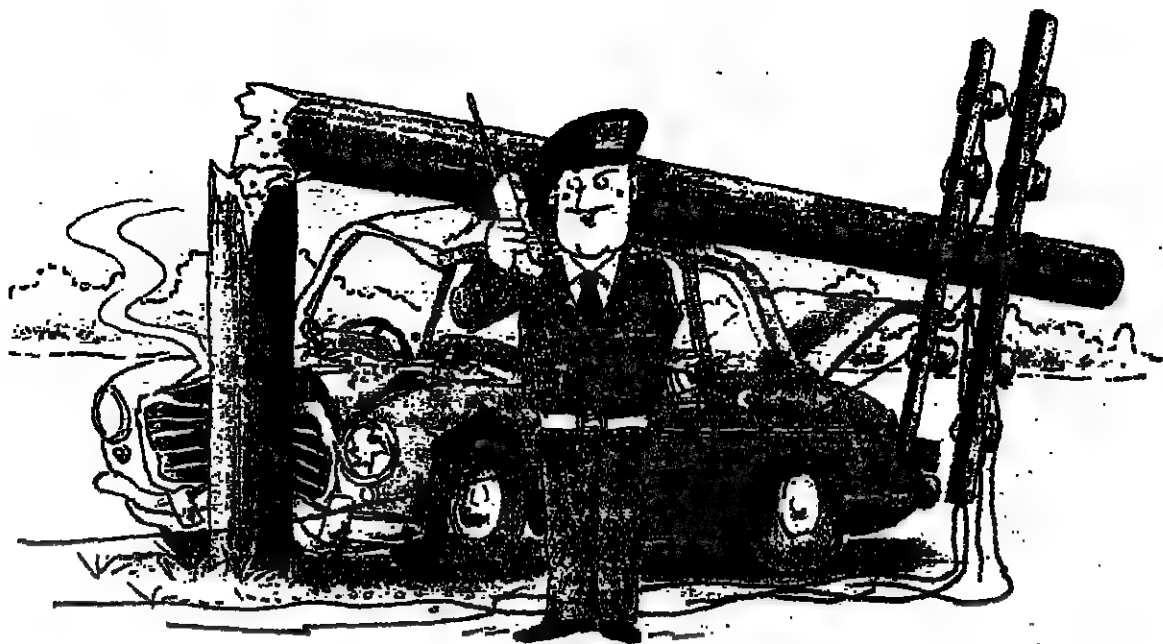
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The human dimension of business



Sir Pat Lowry, Institute president: "We need to set up peer groups to help specialists as well as generalists."

For personnel managers, the celebration of the institute's 75th anniversary today represents something of a coming of age. Though there have been several such commemorative events in the past — the Duke of Edinburgh, the patron, has personally participated in a fiftieth and a sixtieth — a greater air of self-assurance and authority is evident now than, for instance, in 1963 or 1973.

This is partly because of external economic factors and partly because of the profession's own moves to inject a sense of strategic direction into its development. It is helped by a sound financial base and rising membership levels.

In 1981 the institute purchased the freehold of what is now IPM House on Wimbledon Common in south-west London.

Operating revenues have been boosted by expansion in revenue from recruitment advertising and in demand for conferences and courses which together account for more than half the total turnover to yield a surplus, which in 1986-87 totalled more than £1 million. Membership totals have climbed to an estimated 34,000 this year, almost double those at the start of the decade.

The recent comparative affluence has led to warnings about complacency — personnel specialists are more prone than most managers to periodic bouts of self-criticism. However, approval in principle was given by the institute's council last month to several recommendations which should help the implementation of an earlier strategic decision to go for growth rather than consolidation.

Changes include widening the membership criteria, which was hitherto geared towards practitioners with all-round qualifications to attract specialists. "We have to reflect the general move towards greater specialization," comments Sir Pat Lowry, the president, who chaired the strategy study group that drew

A new sense of confidence marks another milestone for the personnel managers

up the recommendations. We need to provide the sort of information and services possibly through setting up peer groups which will help specialists as well as generalists.

Otherwise, the temptation is for splinter organizations to arise and the last thing we want to see is fragmentation of the industry."

Sir Pat, who was formerly chairman of ACAS (the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service) and before that personnel director of British Leyland, emphasizes that modern business pressures bring a greater requirement for organizations involved with different aspects of human resource management to work together on issues like management education.

He also wants to see closer liaison between the institute and academic institutions in, for instance, the coordination of research projects and improved information and training facilities.

Development of the personnel function in the organizations of the future will depend on how well institute members identify with overall business aims. Sir Pat says: "Even if it means an apparent loss in their status, personnel specialists need to accept that responsibility for people as a resource lies with line-management."

One of the arguments in favour of a change in title to that of human resource management is that the description "personnel" is resented by many chief executives.

They identify it with unhappy memories of reaction to strikes and relationships with trade unions. In some big companies, personnel depart-

ments were seen as over-bureaucratic and isolated from the main priorities of the business. During the recession in the early 1980s, centralized personnel departments, and in some instances their training budgets as well, were among the first areas to be cut. Some personnel managers soldiered on with reduced budgets and an increased work-load as the economy revived and companies resumed recruitment.

The second half of the decade has brought a dramatic alteration to the Cinderella image of the profession. Gaining the attention of senior management through cost savings achieved by the implementation of factory closures and redundancies in bad times has given personnel specialists the chance to spread a more positive message when conditions improved.

They have become identified with more imaginative pay schemes and profit-sharing arrangements, flexible work contracts and increasingly with training and management development.

One description of the changes envisaged over the next decade or so is that it might be the "era of the individual". This sees the main thrust of future personnel activities being tailored to individual rather than collective requirements.

Increasing use of information technology systems are seen as enabling work to be structured to individual skills and abilities with more emphasis on personal growth and motivation.

The signs are that the institute is evolving to meet future needs, such as the emphasis on training, and the repair of skills shortages.

The question of whether it can adapt quickly enough to satisfy the competitive pressures of the 1990s and beyond is one which it shares with other British management organizations, who have recently become aware that though efficiency has improved greatly in recent years, there is still a long way to go to match that of West Germany, Japan or the United States.

Changing role for those who lead



Theon Wilkinson: "We have a consistent philosophy of inherent dislike of employment legislation."

Since its inception, employee relations has been a cornerstone of the work of the institute. In the 1990s this was associated with welfare; in the 1930s with labour management.

In the last 10 years, the committee, chaired by Cory Roberts of the Motor Agents' Association, has had a heavy work load in responding to and comment on government legislation. Theon Wilkinson — IPM manager, employee relations — gives the basic committee position: "We have a consistent philosophy of inherent dislike of employment legislation, although we accept the necessity of providing a legal control on the worst type of abuses."

In response to the recent Green Paper on a further round of trade-union statutory measures, the institute said legislation would not necessarily make trade unions more democratic. The process should be better encouraged from within, possibly as a result of greater numbers of more active members and from constructive and integrative management/union policies.

Pursuing the legislative process too far could reinforce divisive and adversarial attitudes.

The pragmatism can also be seen in the practical guidance the IPM makes available to personnel managers. A recent publication, *A guide to workplace bargaining*, advised a cautious approach when it says: "It is usually not in the employer's interest to encourage ballots on short-term issues such as pay and conditions because:

- Employees normally vote in favour of strike action;
- The issue becomes a vote of confidence in the union;

gave the trade unions much of their strength. As Clive Jenkins said when a rationalization for pay and conditions was developed for university technicians: "You're taking my bread and butter away. Give me the jungle of different standards and conditions and we shall flourish."

"In employee relations there is the notion of a balance — nothing is exclusively right or wrong. This consensus approach may be out of fashion at the moment but I see in the long run the personnel manager moving towards a coordinating role in achieving a balance — a sense of fairness — both within and between organizations."

A thirst for specialist training

Personnel managers have a long history of applying their own medicine where education is concerned, having had their own external examination entry scheme since 1955.

Their arguments that the basic training they offer in human resource management offers a valuable grounding to managers in general now seem set to bear fruit in the recent climate of interest in improving management education.

Discussions are in progress to try to establish stage 1 of the institute's professional education scheme as a component of the proposed new diploma in management practice.

Meanwhile, changes due to take effect in September 1989

EDUCATION

are intended both to give more flexibility and the opportunity for personnel managers to develop specialist expertise.

Applicants, who are expected to have at least three O-levels and two A-levels will be offered a selection of six "modular" subjects in addition to a basic "core". There are also plans to offer existing members an opportunity to update their existing knowledge or gain an additional specialization by studying a particular subject at post-graduate level.

The process by which the changes were introduced is a

good illustration of how the institute works.

Before starting to redesign the present scheme which has been operating since about 1980 the first stage was to consult with the national committee which advises members about training and development topics.

The resulting consultative document was then taken earlier this year to participating colleges who were invited to give their comments. The choice of specialist subjects was drawn up as a result of this consultative process.

Prospective members who have less academic inclinations can take a certificate course which is "open entry"

and does not require any academic qualifications.

Normally involving one half day and evening per week over a year of study, the certificate course includes "core" areas such as interviewing skills and employment legislation as well as optional subjects.

Once a student has successfully completed the course, he or she is eligible to become an affiliate member or student member (CPP).

One of the IPM's strengths is its long-established links with colleges of further education.

About 25 establishments offer the full professional education scheme courses while 73 run the certificate course.

Compensation the watchword

The National Committee on Pay and Conditions, chaired by Mike Langley of the London International Group, could be said to be a committee riding on the back of a revolution.

Ten years ago, pay was very much a technical aspect of the job of personnel. "Salary administration was the province of a clerk who saw his job as maintaining the intellectual virginity of the salary structure" was the way Steve Palmer, IPM's manager — pay and employment conditions, put it. "The emphasis was on maintaining internal and external parity, and following the going rate for the job."

In 1979, all that was changed. The entire involve-



Steve Palmer: Pay is dead

ment of the state in pay disappeared. Companies went through significant changes as they weathered the recession and the impact of new technology.

"One change was to question the conventional wisdom on wages. There was a move towards individual payments related to performance."

"It was argued that there was not much equity in paying people the same irrespective of their performance."

"This process has gathered pace during the 1980s. Starting with senior men, whose remuneration was related to achievement against corporate objectives, there has been a dramatic shift to performance-related pay for white collar workers and a growing interest in group schemes for manual workers."

"It is against this background that pay is seen more

as a part of the total package of compensation and benefits. Its administration is intellectually more challenging as compensation is used creatively. Our aim is to make the institute a home for compensation specialists."

"Last year we established a compensation policy and management forum. We are running a series of workshops on topics such as the Finance Act, pensions, deferred work schemes. Next month we shall be running a seminar for 70 personnel directors under the title 'What compensation policies can do for your business'."

"Pay is dead — long live compensation!"

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FOCUS

INSTITUTE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Born in good will

There have been many social as well as industrial changes since the group of welfare workers who met in York at the invitation of the Rowntree confectionery company decided to form a permanent association. But the principles underlying what was then called the Welfare Workers' Association are as important today as when the first minutes were signed on June 7, 1913. These were that the association should form a centre for the exchange of information.

The actual terminology used by Miss Mary Woods, the secretary, was that the new association would "keep a register of all firms doing welfare work and should obtain particulars annually of what is being done."

Four years later in August, 1917, Miss Wood helped to organize a conference that discussed the possibility of the publication of statistics and special studies of problems of industry.

This led to the formation of the Central Association of



Mary Woods: pioneer who wrote minutes of the first meeting at York in 1913. Welfare Workers whose objectives were: "To promote the well-being of the workers in securing, in co-operation with employers and employed, the best possible conditions of work and to help all efforts, inside and outside the factory, to place industrial relations on a basis of good-will and understanding."

The first AGM was held at the London School of Economics in January 1918 400 members were listed.

There were to be six more changes of name until the present title was adopted in June 1946. Nevertheless, one of the organization's strengths has been its ability to adapt to its members' new requirements while retaining early strengths such as the branch structure and its regional bias. Above all, it has retained a co-operative and consultative approach to decision-taking which makes extensive use of members' expertise and experience.

Much of the institute's work is carried out through its committees. Five functional and two standing committees represent the main personnel specialisms of:

- Employee relations;
- Training and development;
- Organization and human resource planning, pay and employment conditions;
- International affairs;
- Public sector;

Equal opportunities.

Each committee has a full-time member of the IPM staff who acts as secretary, and about 20 serving IPM members. Though within the membership lists many familiar business names such as Mecca Leisure, Scottish & Newcastle, General Motors and IBM occur, an attempt is now made to maintain a balanced representation between big and small businesses, public and private sectors, consultancies and academic interests.

Most committee members will have reached a position of seniority within their parent organization and standing within the personnel management profession.

IPM views and policies are formulated by the national committees. These views are developed and propagated by work which can be broadly classified as either reactive or proactive. Reactive work centres around responses to Government initiatives and proposals for legislation within the employment field.

Way in for the skilled hands

A drive for new members launched earlier this year — one of the results of a strategic decision to "go for growth" — should do much to counter criticisms that the institute has become too inward-looking.

Peter Nicholson, who took over responsibility for membership development in January, sees the management entry scheme introduced in the early 1980s after much heart-searching about risk of declining standards, as his main immediate target. It permits senior experienced managers to become institute members without the necessity to sit examinations.

Mr Nicholson stresses that the management entry scheme is "not an easy option". To

qualify, applicants not only submit examples of their work, but have to undergo a grueling 1½ to two hour interview.

Even then acceptance is not automatic — an estimated 12 to 15 per cent will be refused. It is not surprising that only about 600 of the 30,000 or so IPM membership have entered by this route so far. Nevertheless Mr Nicholson is hopeful of attracting more of the estimated 55 per cent of personnel practitioners who are not institute members by this means.

Economic changes during the past decade have contributed to a new interest in professional personnel expertise in areas like, for instance, the police forces who for the first time are dealing with a civilian workforce; in local government as a result of competitive tendering, and from the nationalized industries after privatization.

Presentations to the British Airports Authority alone have led to 20 new applications and interest has also been expressed by British Rail, British Telecom and the Post Office.

Already, Mr Nicholson can identify a ripple effect stemming from the drive. Interest from a senior manager tends to spur others down the line to complete the process of becoming full members.

Another advantage of encouraging more applicants by way of management entry is that of increasing the pool of specialist knowledge available



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A conscience at the front line

Communications through conferences, courses and publications are an important part of the IPM's activities. Its national conference in Harrogate has an established niche in the business calendar and attracts around 2,000 delegates and associates.

Regular contact with non members as well as members is maintained throughout the year via two publications — the Digest and the monthly Personnel Management magazine.

Through increases in the volume of vacancies advertised in the two journals reflect the rising fortunes of the profession the editorial content is an indicator of current preoccupations.

Though there is a growing emphasis on commercial requirements and more articles on general management topics there is also a continuing awareness of social issues and their implications.

The editor of Personnel Management, Suzanne Lawrence, says: "Personnel managers are the front line of a business's social conscience," through their influence on recruitment and secondment decisions, age, race and sex discrimination and health and safety.

An article last month reviewed some of the measures employers can take to prevent employers' fears about AIDS.

The June issue looks at homosexuality and the implications of Section 28 of the Local Government Act on work-place attitudes.

The institute is also a leading publisher of books and reports with more than 100 titles sold either by direct mail or through bookshops.



Staff at the institute's office, IPM House, which opened in Wimbledon in 1981



John Miller, the institute director, who is due to retire next year

which is claimed to have the largest collection of specialist personnel management literature in Europe. An analysis of inquiries shows that training is a prime concern of personnel managers followed by recruitment, including requests for referral to consultants and specialist agencies.

A high demand for information about staff relocation suggests a trend in labour-market mobility. Interest was also expressed in developments in profit related pay and pensions, in performance appraisal, psychological testing and about computers in personnel.

Future developments are expected to bring more emphasis on research either carried out by the institute or co-ordinated by it. Recent projects have included a study on the use of assessment centres based on 20 organizational case studies and a survey of current policies on special leave allowances.

A service designed to increase representation among smaller companies which may not have a personnel specialist is the company information service which offers some of the benefits of membership for an annual fee linked to number of employees.

A new development resulting from the recent strategy review envisages a redefinition of the role both of the full-time director of the institute and its president. The aim is to free the director from administrative tasks and enable him or her to give overall continuity in the institute's relationships externally. Such a shift would mean that the director would become the principal voice of the profession.

Promotional skills and the ability to communicate through TV media and press articles and interviews are therefore likely to be a new specification for a director when a successor is sought to John Miller, who retires next year.

The old are still the losers

The institute detects a clear trend towards the eradication of unfair discrimination in employment.

Its latest report shows that some 25 per cent of the vacancies advertised in the institute's magazines were with employers who claimed to operate a policy of equal opportunities as against 20 per cent and 16 per cent respectively in the previous two years.

One advertiser even offered

EQUALITY

the job description and application forms on tape and in Braille. This trend illustrates the success of the work of the Standing Committee on Equal Opportunities, chaired by Mr Peter Naylor, of Carvering.

This committee is concerned with all aspects of equal opportunities in employment, embracing not only sex and race discrimination, but also discrimination against the disabled and on the grounds of age.

It recently commissioned independent researchers to produce an advisory booklet on contract compliance and its value in promoting equal opportunities. The research showed significant benefit and the institute made representa-

tions to the Minister of the Environment to continue to allow equal opportunities issues to be promoted via contract compliance.

Of prime concern is the extent of discrimination on grounds of age. The institute is one of the few leading professional organizations to speak out against this form of discrimination. Its code recommends an open-minded approach.

However, a survey of recent advertisements in the IPM magazines shows there is still significant bias against the older worker.

Forty was specified as the upper limit for a third of all jobs advertised, while out of a total of 3,810 jobs, only three were categorically aimed at applicants up to or about 60 years of age.

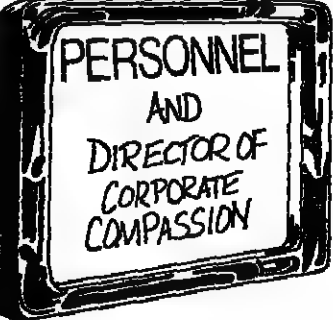
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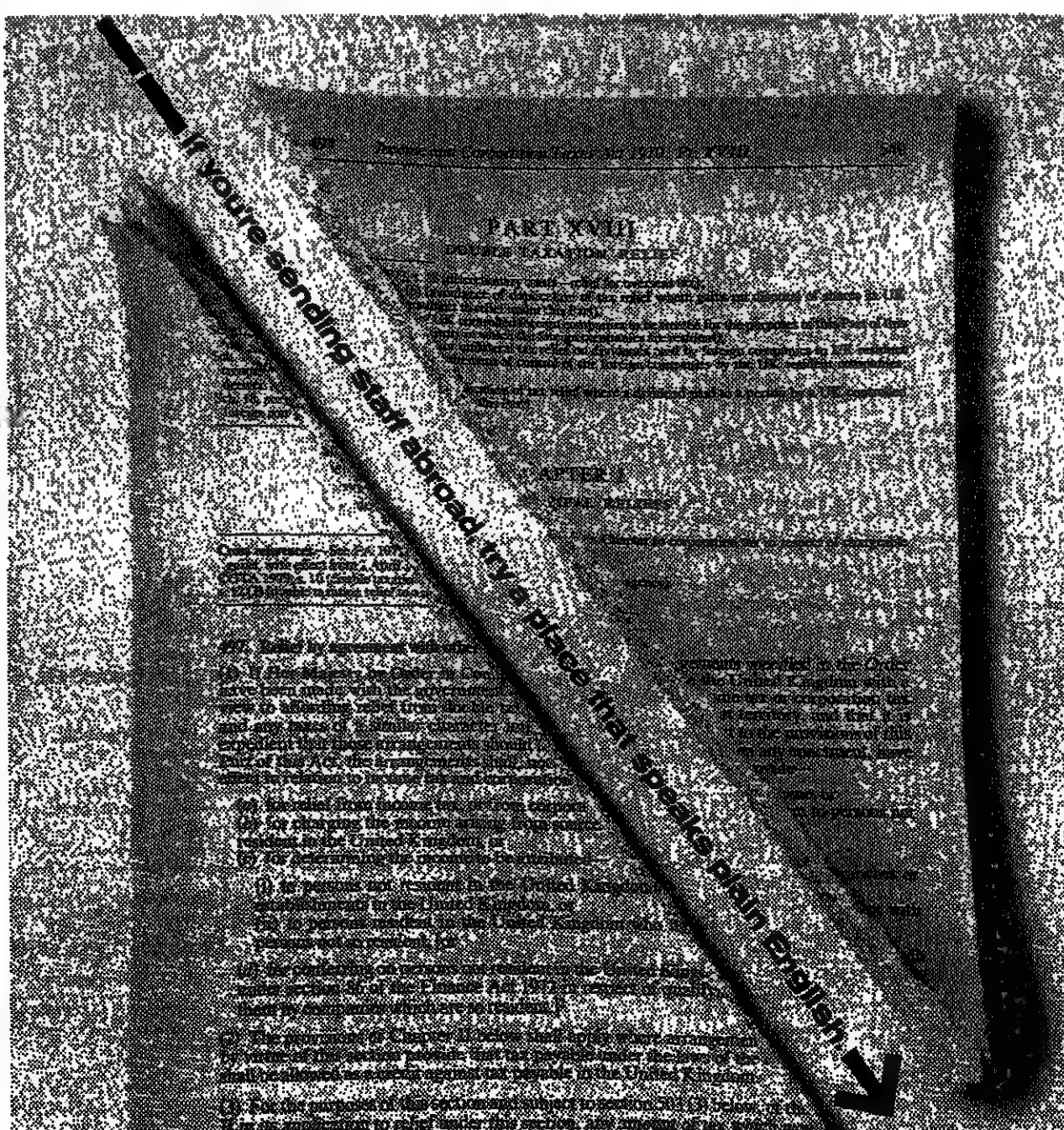
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PRESS FOR ACTION

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Jane Rackham and Penny Osborn

BBC1

- 6.55** *News* (b/w). **6.55** *Weather*.
- 7.00** *Breakfast Time*. With John Stapleton and Kirsty Wark. Includes regional and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15 and weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25. Regional news and weather, followed by *Dallas* (Cee-fax) (r).
- 8.30** *Lyn Marshall's Everyday Yoga*. Stretch and exercise (r).
- 10.00** *News* and weather, followed by *Minister's World*. Beneath the surface of a duck pond. (Cee-fax) (r). **10.45** *Cartoon*.
- 10.50** *Children's BBC*. Andy Crane with birthday greetings and programme news, followed by *Play School*. Presented by Floella Benjamin with guest Johnny Ball (r).
- 11.30** *Cricket: First Test*. Tony Lewis introduces live coverage of this morning's play between England and the West Indies in the final day at Trent Bridge. Includes 10.55 and 12.00 *News* and weather. **12.45** *Regional news and weather*.
- 1.00** *One O'Clock News* with Michael Buerk. Weather. **1.30** *Neighbours*. Romance is in the air when Sharon and Christine try their hand at matchmaking.
- 1.50** *Cricket: First Test*. Further live coverage from Trent Bridge. **2.40** *The High Chaparral*. Western series.
- 3.30** *The Pink Panther Show*. **3.55** *Suburban the Incredible Drawing Dog* (r). **4.00** *Doodle*. **4.15** *Simon and the Witch* (r). **4.30** *Pole Position* (r).
- 5.00** *Newsround*.
- 5.10** *The Lowdown*. Emily Holt's campaign to get the education of her choice (Cee-fax).
- 5.55** *Midday*. **6.00** *Six O'Clock News* with Sue Lawley and Nicholas Witchell. Weather.

BBC2

- 6.55** *Open University: Chemistry*. Ends at 7.30.
- 8.30** *Cee-fax*.
- 8.50** *Daytime on Two*. Home economics. **9.30** *Cee-fax*. **10.15** *Education*. **10.30** *Conservation*. **11.10** *Cee-fax*. **11.35** *Reproduction and Survival*. **12.00** *The Problem of Bypasses*. **12.05** *Cee-fax*. **12.20** *America's History*. **12.50** *Spanish for beginners*.
- 1.30** *Postman Pat*. Narrated by Ken Barrie. **1.35** *Big Top Science*. Why does the wind blow? How can you measure its speed? And how can you make your own tornado? Presented by Terry Marsh and Kieran Positt.
- 2.00** *News* and weather, followed by *You and Me*. A series for four and five-year-olds presented by Bernard Pate (r).
- 2.15** *Sign Extra*. Includes an item on the writers of *Cagney and Lacey*, adapted for the hearing impaired (r).
- 2.40** *Cricket: First Test*. Tony Lewis introduces live coverage of the final day's play between England and the West Indies at Trent Bridge. With commentators Richie Benaud and Jack Bennett. Includes 3.00 *News* and weather, followed by regional news and weather.
- 3.10** *Planet Vikings* (1985). Action and adventure in this epic set in the barbaric world of ninth-century Vikings. Starring Kirk Douglas and Tony Curtis as half-brothers competing for the love of the Princess Morgana (Janet Leigh) and the throne of Northumbria. With Ernest Borgnine and Dandy Nichols. Directed by Richard Fleischer.
- 3.50** *Comedies*. *Bamber Gascoigne* chairs the first heat of the quiz game on film and decorative arts. (Cee-fax).
- 6.30** *Brass Tacks*. The story of a 31-year-old man who has secured an out of court settlement after 11 years of battling to prove his growth was stunted by a drug prescribed for childhood arthritis but has failed in his attempt to get the drug companies to admit liability. Helen Beaden reports on this country's compensation system.



Jennifer Saunders as Edith Fiddle (BBC 2, 9pm)

- 6.50** *Happy Families*. First episode in a repeat run of the comedy series written by Ben Elton. Starring Jennifer Saunders, who plays the part of a doddery grandmother as well as her four grand-daughters, and Adrian Edmondson as her bumbling grandson, who has to round up the family before she dies. With Dawn French, Helen Lederer and Stephen Fry; and Una Stubbs as the Mother Superior. (Cee-fax) (r).
- 6.50** *The Day Men*. (Cee-fax). (See Choice).
- 10.20** *It's Garry Shandling's Show*. The off-beat American comedian is sharing his condominium with a stray dog; but when his meddling manager finds out, it is time for Larry to go home.
- 10.40** *Newsnight*. With Peter Snow and Donald MacCormick. **11.25** *Weather*.
- 11.30** *Cricket: First Test*. Richie Benaud introduces highlights of today's play between England and the West Indies.
- 12.00** *Open University: Bedford College of Higher Education* - a pioneering college. Ends 12.30am.

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00** *TV-am* begins with the Morning Programme presented by Richard Keys. **7.00** *Good Morning Britain*. **8.00** *After Nine*. Jayne Irving talks to fashion designer John Galiano.
- 9.55** *Thames News*. **10.00** *Thames News*. **10.55** *Thames News*. **11.00** *Thames News*. **11.55** *Thames News*.
- 11.30** *After Britain*. Tony Gregory tells the story of East Angles' local port, Wells, and Mac Dowdy visits ports such as Grimsby and Antwerp in the Low Countries.
- 12.00** *Class Street*. First in a new series with Vince Hill, Jilly Cooper and Rustie Lee.
- 12.30** *The Sullivan*. Family drama series set in 1910.
- 1.00** *News at One* with Julia Somerville.
- 1.20** *Thames News*.
- 1.30** *Quincy*. The investigative pathologist finds evidence of child abuse when his ex-wife's 14-year-old son is found dead.
- 2.30** *The Treatment*. Examines the necessity for a measles vaccination and the return of leeches.
- 3.00** *Farmhouse Kitchen*. Grace Mulgan's guest is David Shepperson, manager of a fish shop in Huddersfield.
- 3.25** *Thames News*. **3.30** *The Young Doctors*. Australian hospital drama series.
- 4.00** *Children's ITV* starting with *Rainbow*. A repeat of the programme shown earlier.
- 4.15** *The Tellybugs*. **4.25** *Who's Next*. Children's comedy on programme.
- 4.30** *Inspector Gadget*. Cartoon series.
- 5.00** *Bellamy's Bangle*. David Bellamy discovers the secrets of old Whitley.

CHANNEL 4

- 6.30** *Schools*.
- 12.30** *Business Daily*. Financial and business news service.
- 1.00** *Could Do That*. Starting up in business. **1.10** *Could Do That*. Starting up in business.
- 1.30** *Catering with Care*. Food delivery, storage and preparation. (Orac) (r).
- 2.00** *The Parkman Programme*. Two plays set in a down-trodden, inner-city teaching hospital.
- 2.30** *St Elmo*. Musical comedy set at the turn of the century about the romantic adventures of two sisters (Jane Powell and Debbie Reynolds) during a fortnight's holiday in the Catskills. With choreography by Busby Berkeley and songs including "By the Light of the Silvery Moon".
- 4.15** *Crucis*. Short animation film from Canada by Frederick Back.
- 4.30** *Countdown*. Today's challenger in the words and numbers game is a local government officer from Nelson, Lancashire. Gyles is in the Dictionary Corner.
- 5.00** *Bewitched*. Vintage American comedy series.
- 5.30** *How Does Your Garden Grow?* Philip Wodehouse visits a half-acre garden in County Antrim, which three years ago was a bare field. (Orac).
- 6.00** *Sunrise*. Highlights of days nine and ten of the Grit Autumn Tournament in Tokyo, including a look at Hokuto, the newest Supreme Champion (r).
- 6.45** *Challenge to Sport*. Water polo (r).
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Children make their mark

Continued from page 1

said she wouldn't talk about it. When I asked her why she opposed the television programme about it, she just talked about Magna Carta and said the people concerned would not be found guilty except by proper judgement of their peers."

Nicola, the bit between her teeth, asked her why she did not impose sanctions against South Africa. "She said apartheid was going out of industry in South Africa, but when I told her that a black miner gets only one-fifth of the wages of a white miner, she just ignored it."

Undeterred, Nicola asked her about the state of the National Health Service. "She said this Government had spent more than any other on the NHS, and that some hospitals were better managed than others. I didn't like her, she was quite dominating," said Nicola, adding that, were she old enough, she would not vote for Mrs Thatcher.

Luke Salkeld, aged 12, asked the Prime Minister why teachers were paid so poorly compared with policemen.

"She said that head teachers got between £28,000 and £30,000. She said policemen got well paid because they had a dangerous job", Luke reported.

Stephen Fairclough, aged 14, came away with a good impression of Mrs Thatcher, to the extent that he would vote for her.

The Prime Minister also told him that, having raised the minimum school leaving age to 16 when she was Secretary of State for Education, she saw no need to raise it any higher.

Asked by her interviewers to name her favourite television programme, Mrs Thatcher nominated *The Two Ronnies*. Did she, the questioners asked, mean Ronald Reagan. "Yes," said the Prime Minister. "He tells such wonderful stories."

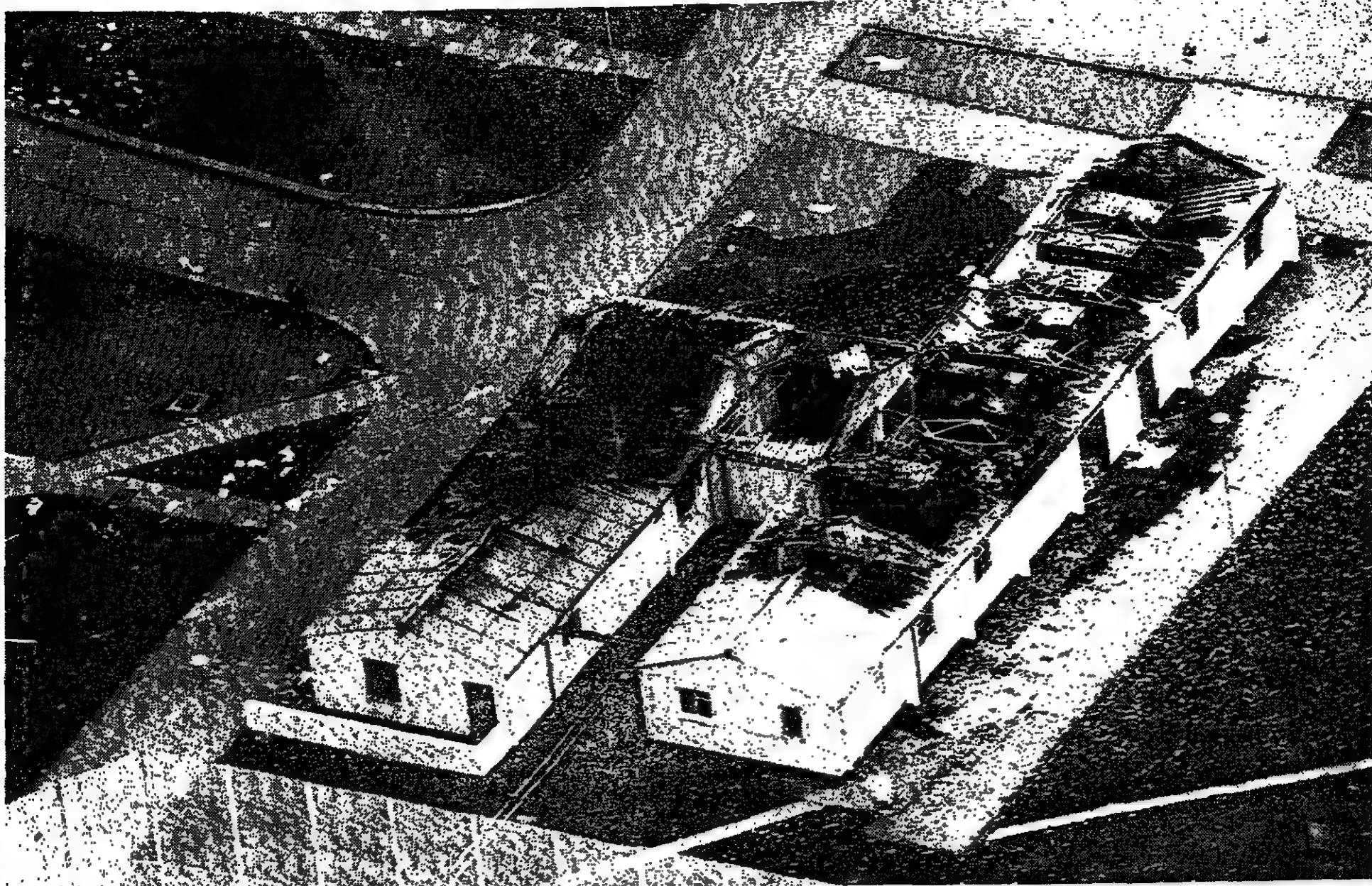
Jessica Patterson, aged 9, asked Mrs Thatcher if she ever got upset about the things people said about her. "She said she did sometimes get very upset, but she knew they weren't true."

It was Jessica who observed, in some wonder, that Mrs Thatcher's hair was very stiff. And it was Jessica who, in the middle of the press conference, disclosed in a stage whisper: "Nicola made a big pen mark on the settee."

I must NOT ask Mrs. THATCHER awkward questions. I must NOT ask Mrs. THATCHER...



Jail smoulders after a night of rioting



Barred-out buildings at Haverigg prison, near Millom, Cumbria, yesterday after the mass riot by inmates on Sunday night in which 25 men escaped (Photograph: Terry Richards).

Unrest in South Africa

Black workers rally to nation-wide strike call

From Michael Hersey, Johannesburg

Hundreds of thousands of black workers stayed away from work yesterday in response to a call for a three-day, nation-wide protest against the South African Government's clampdown on political dissent and draft legislation that would curb industrial action and limit the right to strike.

In general it was an impressive display of organizing muscle by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), the main black labour federation, and the National Council of Trade Unions, which between them have more than a million members.

During scattered acts of violence, at least nine people, all thought to be blacks, were reported to have been injured in a petrol bomb attack on a bus in the KwaZulu tribal homeland in Natal province.

In Soweto, a bomb damaged part of the railway track near Dube station; railway coaches were set on fire or damaged by explosions in Germiston, near Johannesburg, and in Pretoria; and Umagaba station on the Natal south coast was petrol bombed. Black mobs stoned buses. There were fears of more violence as blacks who defied the stay-away returned home last night.

Pamphlets distributed in

the name of the outlawed African National Congress proclaimed that "the South African economy must grind to a halt, buses, taxis and trains must not move, schools and universities must be closed, and offices and shops must not operate."

The stay-away was most effective in the Johannesburg area. More than 90 per cent of workers in Soweto and other townships in the region were estimated to have stayed at home. Absenteeism was put at about 75 per cent in and around Durban, another important industrial centre. Least affected were the Western Cape and, rather surprisingly in view of its past history of militancy, the Port Elizabeth area in the Eastern Cape.

There was an almost total boycott of black schools in Soweto, with attendance by pupils in other parts of the country ranging from as low as 20 per cent to as high as 90 per cent, according to the Department of Education and Training.

Even the important mining sector, where the employers took a particularly tough stand, threatening mass dismissals and possible court action against trade unions, did not go unscathed. Gencor reported a 90 per cent

stay-away at two collieries and Rand Mines a 55 per cent absentee rate at one coal mine.

The state-controlled South African Broadcasting Corporation put out powerful propaganda on its English and black-language channels on Sunday night, giving considerable air time to the Zulu leader, Chief Mangosuthu Buthe, the only black politician of any stature opposed to the protest strike.

Given the hostile attitude of employers, and public warnings by government ministers that the organizers face possible arrest and imprisonment, the scale of the response must be considered a strong indication that the state of emergency has failed to cow black resistance.

Last February, a presidential decree severely restricted the legal activities of Cosatu and 17 leading black political and civil rights organizations. Among other things, Cosatu was prohibited from organizing "politically motivated" strikes and industrial action.

Several predominantly white groups, including the Black Sash, a civil rights organization run by white women, and the National Union of South African Students, yesterday came out in support of the stay-away.

Continued from page 1

controlled manner through the rest of the prison."

About 400 prisoners not involved in the riot surrounded after a personal appeal by the governor. The others surrendered only after prison and police officers ringed the complex.

Mr Lockwood said the rioting problems, rather than the incident which gave rise to the riot, would be the subject of his inquiry.

None of the prison officers was injured. One inmate was returned to prison yesterday after being treated in hospital for a minor injury. At the height of the riot, about 100 people living in houses near

the perimeter were evacuated and spent the night in a local magistrates' court building.

Mr John Jones, northern regional deputy director of the Home Office prisons department, who visited Haverigg yesterday, said the damage was extensive and one-and-a-half of the four wings in C block were the riot started were uninhabitable.

Mr David Hall, the POA branch secretary at Haverigg, who was on duty at the time, said it was a "very frightening" experience.

There was some confusion last night over the identity of the three prisoners still on the run. The police at Millom said they had not been given

the names, descriptions or photographs of the men they were seeking.

Earlier, police had understood the delay in providing identification had been caused by damage to records at the prison during the riot.

However, officials of the Prison Department said officers had moved records to a safe area during the riot. Any delay in the provision of identities to the police had been caused by the lengthy procedures involved in a physical head count.

The men were wearing prison blue trousers and blue and white striped shirts when they escaped.

Base rate up as pound slips

Continued from page 1

after the Whitsun recess. Labour intends to exploit mounting concern at the explosion of domestic credit and damage higher interest rates will cause to British industry.

The Opposition's first opportunity to question the Government's strategy will come this afternoon at Prime Minister's Questions. Last night Mr John Smith, the Shadow Chancellor, said the Government's monetary policy lacked coherence and was uncertain. It had been confused and uncertain since sterling was uncapped against the Deutschmark at the insistence of the Prime Minister.

Mr Smith said the explosion in domestic credit had shown how unwise the Government had been to stimulate a pre-

election boom followed by huge tax cuts for the better off in the budget. "The result now is that British industry will be penalised by higher interest rates and is paying the price of the Government's irresponsibility."

He said there was really little discernable monetary policy with interest rates coming down one week and going up the next.

The Shadow Trade and Industry spokesman, Mr Bryan Gould said the rise in interest rates would penalize industry but do little to control personal credit. If the Chancellor was really committed to curbing the credit explosion he would need to look at more than interest rates.

But Mr John Townsend, a

vice chairman of the Conservative backbench finance committee, said the rise in interest rates "vindicated the Chancellor's financial policy, the rise stops the pound going down too quickly and too far."

The rise in interest rates produced a mixed reaction from Mr John Banham, the Director-General of the CBI, who said that no one liked to see their costs going up but the worse thing that could happen to the British economy would be a resurgence of inflation.

Mr Lawson, in an interview on the BBC Radio 4 *Today* programme, gave the clearest indication that he wished to remain as Chancellor for some time so that he could start on his next priority, to bring the basic rate of income tax down from 25p in the pound to 20p.

Iranian contacts on West hostages

Continued from page 1

Iran for almost certain execution. The Archbishop always assumed that he was looking for routine kidnap victims. 3 The American Government had originally been asked by Tehran to find the missing Iranians in exchange for US hostages in Lebanon. The first such offer from Tehran came after the abduction of Mr David Dodge, the American University of Beirut president, in 1982. President Gernayel of Lebanon was asked by the Americans if the three Iranians were alive. A US embassy official later turned up at Mr Gernayel's palace to be told by the President that he "much regretted" they were all dead.

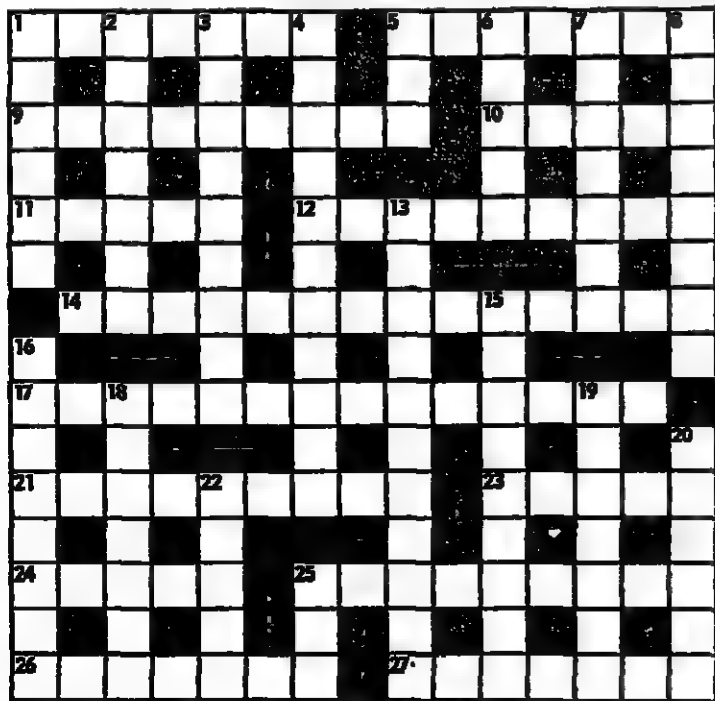
4 Colonel William Higgins, the American United Nations officer kidnapped in southern Lebanon last February, was deliberately targeted by the Iranian Embassy in Beirut, according to sources close to the Amal militia. The Iranians are said to have planned his abduction from their "Islamic centre" in Tyre. Four separate cars were used to transport Colonel Higgins to west Beirut, one of them a vehicle with Iranian diplomatic plates.

5 Mr Imad Moughnieh, the Hezbollah security official who was involved in the kidnapping of two Americans - Mr Terry Anderson and Mr David Jacobson - planned the hijacking of the Kuwait Airlines jumbo jet last spring. Contrary to press reports at the time, he was not one of the gunmen on the aircraft. A Shia source in west Beirut now says the weapons for the hijackers were provided by the Iranian diplomatic mission in Bangkok - the plane's point of departure - and that "six or seven shebehs (boys) from Bourj el-Barajneh" (in the southern suburbs of Beirut) were the gunmen. Mr Moughnieh was seen at Mashad airport in Iran - where the plane was first taken - and where, according to the same source, the Iranians agreed that they would stage a "storming" of the aircraft with the hijackers' complicity to free the passengers if the Kuwaiti Government had yielded in any way.

What has emerged only too clearly in west Beirut is that Iran controls all the foreign hostages still alive here and that even incidents like the Kuwait Airlines hijacking ultimately have their roots in Tehran. This is why the increasing reports here of contacts between London, Washington, Bonn and Tehran are met with so little incredulity. If Iran holds the hostages and Syria holds most of the territory around them in west Beirut, these two countries see themselves in an ideal position to suggest negotiations to the Western nations who still have captives in Lebanon. Syria is now publicly doing just that.

With Iran so vulnerable a position here Tehran might, according to the Lebanese sources, be prepared to exchange the hostages for the financial compensation which it has repeatedly claimed from the US Government.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,689



ACROSS

- 1 Noble type had a celebration first (7).
- 5 Encourages mad scientist? No way! (7).
- 9 Result only possible after a case of Scotch (3,6).
- 10 President leading a dance... (5).
- 11... with some American girl (5).
- 12 Had life saved, perhaps, floundering in deep river (9).
- 14 After death I'm upset and tremble, note (14).
- 17 Legal exercise (14).
- 21 Ecstatic on account of girl meeting boy (9).
- 23 Certain I've gone? It's only an assumption (5).
- 24 Way bowler uses to get England opener caught by colleague (5).
- 25 Put up what's seen as help for marksmen (4,5).
- 26 Sculptor and authoress on record (7).
- 27 Why, it's said, I would ruin language (7).

DOWN

- 1 Look a bird (6).
- 2 Tactile arrangement for network (7).
- 3 Botanical expert sees woman's island on the way (9).
- 4 Get the bird gradually, in spreading fashion (11).
- 5 Local river (3).
- 6 Thirty days in some islands - or just one (5).
- 7 Rocket man turned up in city (3,4).
- 8 Usual supporter for this was ancient (8).
- 13 Portrayal of Madame Butterfly (7,4).
- 15 Multinational operation put forward unanimously (9).
- 16 Top honoree officer 'ad secured? Could be (8).
- 18 Danger to shipping in Channel is annoying (7).
- 19 Spear once more cut fool's head (7).
- 20 Problem for person running part of Jersey (6).
- 22 Happiness church can give author (5).
- 25 A single trip (3).

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

WILD WEST WORDS

By Philip Howard

DEAD MAN'S HAND

- a. A slow draw
- b. A hand full of cards
- c. Emergency brake on Wells Fargo

NIGHT HAWK

- a. An Apache chieftain
- b. Man in charge of horses
- c. The eagle owl, whose feathers were used for Sioux head-dresses

SUCCESS

- a. A full dish
- b. A queen's carrying belt
- c. A sub-tribe of the Pawnee

CANNARY

- a. A really bad plant at San Antonio
- b. A serrated hawk hawk
- c. A Western keratin

Answers on page 22, column 1

Solution to Puzzle No 17,688

SENSATION LIGHT
MUM DO A LNR
LARGE PARADE
S T A N D S
LEGISLATION
T U L I P
INTEREST STAR
M R S P O E
ELAT YEARDROP
N M P W O
DISCOURSE SHAME
OPTIRPDS
STOWING ANEMONE
ERQHGRN
SATIN TREATMENT

WEATHER

Central England will stay dry with sunny spells and become warm. North-east England and most of eastern Scotland will also be dry with some sunshine. Many western areas will have rain at first. Northern Ireland is expected to stay overcast. Outlook: unsettled and warmer over Britain.

ABROAD

Monday: b-fair; d-dry; f-fog; s-sunny; t-thunder; w-wind; l-l; c-cloud; n-n

	C	F		C	F
Algeria	19	66	Madrid	20	68
Alexandria	27	81	Maracaibo	22	72
Amman	27	81	Medan	22	72
Algiers	24	75	Mexico	15	59
Amman	27	81	Montevideo	20	68
Antananarivo	27	81	Moscow	20	68
Baghdad	31	88	Nairobi	20	68
Bahia	27	81	Paris	19	66
Bangkok	31	88	Peking	20	68
Batavia	27	81	Rangoon	20	68
Bombay	31	88	Reykjavik	19	66
Buenos Aires	27	81	Rome	19	66
Bussan	27	81	Sao Paulo	20	68
Calcutta	31	88	Seoul	20	68
Cairo	31	88	Stockholm	19	66
Cardiff	19	66	Sydney	19	66
Cebu	27	81	Taipei	20	68
Colon	27	81	Tokyo	20	68
Copenhagen	19	66	Toronto	20	68
Dublin	19	66	Ulan Bator	20	68
Edinburgh	19	66	Warsaw	19	66
Geneva	19	66	Wellington	19	66
Hankow	27	81	Winnipeg	19	66
Hong Kong	27	81	Zurich	19	66
Indan	27	81			
Jakarta	27	81			
Johannesburg	27	81			
Kobe	27	81			
Kuala Lumpur	27	81			
Lagos	27	81			
London	19	66			
Lyons	19	66			
Manila	27	81			
Moscow	20	68			
Mumbai	31	88			
Nairobi	20	68			
Osaka	20	68			
Paris	19	66			
Rangoon	20	68			
Reykjavik	19	66			
Rome	19	66			
Sao Paulo	20	68			
Seoul	20	68			
Shanghai	20	68			
Singapore	27	81			
Sydney	19	66			
Taipei	20	68			
Tokyo	20	68			
Toronto	20	68			
Ulan Bator	20	68			
Warsaw	19	66			
Wellington	19	66			
Winnipeg	19	66			
Zurich	19	66			

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs
London	15.8	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5
Cardiff	15.8	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5
Belfast	15.8	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5
Manchester	15.8	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5
Edinburgh	15.8	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5
Glasgow	15.8	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5
Liverpool	15.8	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5
Newcastle	15.8	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5
Nottingham	15.8	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5
Sheffield	15.8	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5
Sunderland	15.8	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5
Wolverhampton	15.8	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5
Wrexham	15.8	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5
York	15.8	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5

* Dashed figures not available

THE POUND

	Bank	Bank
Australia	2.36	2.36
Canada	2.36	2.36
Denmark	12.22	12.22
France	6.55	6.55
Germany	3.21	3.21
Hong Kong	10.80	10.80
India	13.80	13.80
Italy	1.42	1.42
Japan	238	238
Netherlands	2.20	2.20
Spain	166	166
Sweden	11.25	11.25
Switzerland	2.20	2.20
USA	1.67	1.67
West Germany	3.21	3.21

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

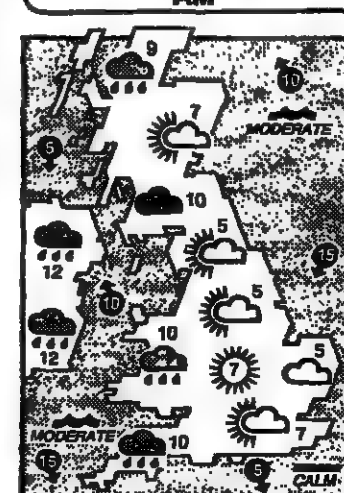
Retail Price Index: 1985=100 (April)

London: The FT index closed up 6.6 at 1482.2

TOWER BRIDGE

Tower Bridge will be closed at the following times today: 11.00am and 4.00pm

AM



MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 17C (63F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 7C (45F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 18. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 4.8hr.

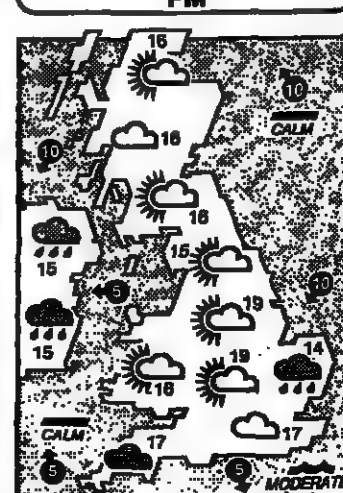
YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

	C	F
Belfast	14	57
Birmingham	15	59
Cardiff	15	59
Edinburgh	15	59
Glasgow	15	59
Liverpool	15	59
Newcastle	15	59
Nottingham	15	59
Sheffield	15	59
Sunderland	15	59
Wolverhampton	15	59
Wrexham	15	59
York	15	59

* Dashed figures not available

PM



HIGHEST & LOWEST

Sunday: Highest day temp: Llandudno, 18C (64F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 7C (45F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 18. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 4.8hr.

LIGHTING-UP TIME

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Sheraton Securities lifts profit by 142%

A hectic development programme boosted pretax profits of Sheraton Securities International, the property trader, by 142 per cent to £11.2 million last year. Earnings per share rose by 94 per cent to 6.8p and the company is doubling the dividend payout to 2.25p a share. Mr Peter Taylor, the managing director, completed developments in the City of London, Milton Keynes, Cambridge and Reading, and in other towns throughout the South-east. The strong demand for office and industrial premises has continued into the current year.

Over the next two to three years Sheraton is expecting to complete £350 million worth of developments. "We anticipate that surpluses towards £60 million will flow from these projects and this should ensure continuing growth in profits," he says. On the stock market the shares rose 3p to 85p.

Turriff buys Essexcare

Turriff, the construction group, is buying Essexcare, a West Midlands specialist trench digging equipment supplier. An initial payment of £500,000 is being made, with further amounts due in 1990 and 1991 depending on profits. Of this £100,000 will be paid in cash and the rest in Turriff shares. Essexcare made a £68,000 pretax profit in 1987.

Aspen pays £2m for Mass

Aspen Communications, Mr Henry Meakin's USM group, is paying up to £2.1 million for Mass (Merchandising & Sales Services), a privately-owned marketing operation. The payment comprises £1.5 million now with up to £600,000 to follow, depending on sales, and will be financed by a share placing.

Staff cuts at Sound

Sound Diffusion, the equipment leasing group, is making a further 70 employees redundant as part of its new management's cost-cutting and re-organization policy. This will mean that staffing has been reduced from 735 to 590 since December when Mr Paul Stoney, the former chairman, resigned. In April, Sound announced full-year losses for 1987 of £5.6 million and launched a £10 million rights issue. However, it says levels of business are strong.

Sound Diffusion is also appointing three new executive directors to the board. It has streamlined the operating structure and altered middle-management incentives — linking them to completed business rather than sales. Mr David Macdonald, the new chairman, said these changes complete the actions which the company regarded as essential after a six-month review of operations.

Nursing home buy for Stakis

Stakis, the Scottish leisure group, is paying £5.8 million for two companies, Dalnair and Bradley Court, which between them run three nursing homes near Glasgow, Edinburgh and Sheffield. The acquisition takes Stakis further into the healthcare business, where it has plans to build five nursing homes in Scottish and English city centres.

NMC jumps 50% to £6.3m

NMC Group, the packaging business 20 per cent owned by the Saatchi brothers, pushed pretax profits up by 50 per cent to £6.3 million last year. Earnings per share rose 44 per cent to 10.76p and a dividend of 2.3p a share, up 53 per cent, will be paid. Mr Norman Gordon, the chief executive, says he is seeking to expand the packaging side.

Leslie Wise purchase

Leslie Wise Group, the womenswear group, is paying £6.44 million for Jeamland, based in London, which manufactures blouses and separates and sells them through multiple stores and high street fashion chains in Britain and on the Continent.

Terms of the deal involve the payment of £2.3 million in cash, and the issue of £1.18 million of convertible loan stock and 2.65 million shares, valued at 55p each. A further £1.5 million in cash will be paid in three annual instalments. Jeamland, which made pretax profits of £990,000 for the year to end-September, on a turnover of £9.4 million, has warranted profits of at least £1.1 million for the present year and the next two years.

CSR selling mineral stake

CSR, the Australian industrial group, is withdrawing from mineral activities, except for a stake in bauxite and aluminium oxide, and is selling its subsidiary companies which hold Indonesian gold and exploration interests to Billiton Indonesia. The various sales will realize an estimated A\$125 million (£56 million).

BHP sells off metal interest

Broken Hill Proprietary (BHP) has completed its withdrawal from aluminium interests, following the agreement to sell its 20 per cent interest in the Worsley Alumina joint venture project in Western Australia to the other venture partners. BHP retains its stake in the associated Boddington gold mine, through its subsidiary BHP Gold Mines.

In two minds over cautious M&G

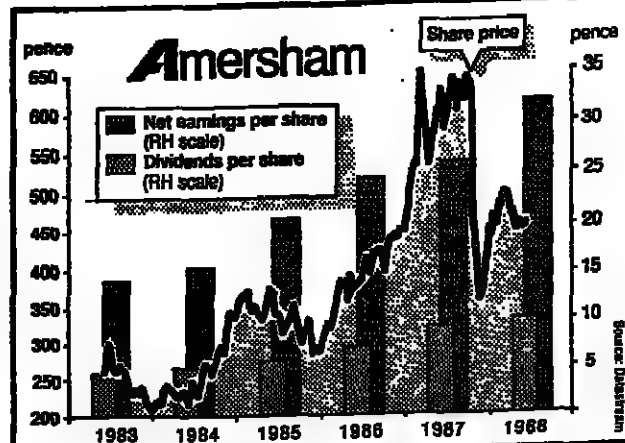
At face value, M&G Group's first set of results post-Black Monday look creditable enough, showing a rise in pretax profits in the six months to end-March, from a comparable £8.68 million to £10.7 million.

However, in looking at the running six months-on-six months trend, and comparing the latest figures with those of the immediately preceding six months, the new profits show a drop from £14.4 million.

After the reiteration of the January warning — that, unless conditions improve, the full year's profits may not match those seen last time round — then M&G shares had nowhere to go but down, though only modestly.

Had Mr Alan Bond, who now holds a 10 per cent slice, not been quite so busy funding his bid for Bell Resources, the Bond-factor might well have helped to counteract yesterday's market movement on the group's cautious statement.

The backwash from Black Monday has also seen net assets ease from 90.3p a share at September 30 to 83.9p a share at March 31. However, the underlying strength of M&G Group is still very evident with the number of unit holders up from 491,000 to 520,000 and the number of



policies in force rising from 272,000 to 316,000.

But investment thoughts are now centred on M&G probably reporting lower year-end figures — possibly around £22 million, compared with an actual £23.3 million seen in the year end-September, 1987.

At 365p, down 5p, the shares trade on 19.1 times, which — discounting the Bond factor — is pricey. As with unit trusts, there is a time for buying and a time for selling, and some short-term trading opportunities in M&G shares could well be evident in the weeks ahead.

Those with a longer-term horizon should, however, continue to sit tight.

Sketchley

Sketchley had no trouble beating the very conservative £11.5 million profit forecast made at the time of the rights issue last September.

The £13.4 million achieved also edged over the City's more realistic estimates and after three years of flat profits, the 25 per cent jump at the pretax level is welcome.

Operating profits bounced 56 per cent higher to £16.9 million, after a £1 million property profit. Earnings per share, however, rose by only 3 per cent.

The company has now completed its reorganization, and this has greatly lessened its dependence on the volatile

British dry cleaning market and relieved it of its underperforming US and Canadian dry cleaners.

A hectic 24 acquisitions for £100 million in the last two years, which have given the group four separate sectors, now requires a period of consolidation.

Sketchley has promised that there are significant economies to be derived from better use of resources within the enlarged group and opportunities to sell more services to existing customers.

Profits this year will be helped by 12-month contributions from recent acquisitions, particularly Roboserve, the vending company, which was included for only five months last year.

They could reach £17 million giving a prospective p/e ratio of 11, so the shares, up 3p at 393p, near their high for the year, are not cheap in this market.

While the historic yield of 6.5 per cent should help underpin the shares, they are unlikely to outperform until the acquisitions spree is yielding the desired results and earnings per share grow.

Amersham

There is only one thing wrong with Amersham, the specialist diagnostics company which

reported record turnover and profits for the eighth successive year. With 88 per cent of its output sold overseas, the strength of sterling is turning what should be a heady growth story into an everyday tale of medical folk.

Reported numbers are being held back by the pound, but turnover last year still rose 11 per cent to £165 million, and pretax profits jumped 14 per cent to £25 million. Judicious hedging and active treasury management minimized the impact on profits.

Looking ahead to 1989-90 and beyond there is still considerable potential for growth. In the past five years, it has invested £20 million in Amerlite, its immuno-chemistry system used in diagnostics.

Its continuing development cost is now being covered by sales, allowing margins in the medical products division to grow from 10.5 per cent to 12.7 per cent. Amerlite is selling well, as is Ceretec, the brain-imaging agent used in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease.

Simon Harris, a pharmaceuticals analyst at County NatWest Wood Mac, forecasts pretax profits of £29 million this year, to give an above-average prospective rating of 13.2.

Amersham remains a small player in a market where there

has been significant concentration among the big companies.

After BP's successful takeover of Britoil, investors may regard Amersham's Articles of Association, which puts a 15 per cent limit on any individual shareholding, as being more restrictive than the golden share. But it is unlikely to prove insuperable.

Hanson

Now here is a neat idea: Hanson the quarry rather than Hanson the hunter. In line with other companies that have a string of brand names to their credit, the sum of Hanson's parts is worth more than the market valuation of the whole. Smith New Court's Bruce Davidson calculates that a bidder could borrow £10.5 billion, twice the market capitalization, to bid for Hanson and cover his interest cost with profits from the business.

Who better to break up Hanson than its two architects, Lord Hanson and Sir Gordon White? A management buyout would provide a suitable climax to the company's astonishing history, says Davidson.

It may be far-fetched, but it does point out Hanson's fundamental undervaluation on a prospective p/e ratio of 8.3, backed by a potential 6.1 per cent yield at 135p.

STOCK MARKET

Morgan jumps on Deutsche bid talk

State bulls of Morgan Grenfell were given a fillip on the first day of the new account when shares of the merchant bank jumped 12p to 303p amid revived takeover talk.

Speculators chased the shares higher on talk that Deutsche Bank, which already holds a stake of just under 3 per cent, has taken up the running from Mr Alan Bond, the Australian businessman, and is ready to make a corporate move on Morgan Grenfell.

Speculators chased MG higher last month amid intense speculation that Mr Bond, who recently increased his stake in the company to more than 8 per cent, was about to increase it to around the 29.9 per cent level by acquiring Willis Faber's 21 per cent stake.

Now it appears, that Mr Bond is a seller of his Morgan Grenfell stock after being forced by the Australian authorities to make a £375 million bid for Bell Group in Australia.

The German bank is ready with the money and has apparently already sounded out Willis Faber for its shareholding, the sale of which could be announced soon. Deutsche could reveal full bid terms for Morgan Grenfell soon.

A few other firm features emerged in the bank sector with Standard Chartered, the other perennial takeover favourite, up a further 11p at 493p on continuing speculation that Bell Group's near-15

per cent stake had been sold to a predator.

Singer & Friedlander, one of the City's smallest merchant banks, moved up 4p to 80p on hopes of a 100p-plus bid from Mr John Gunn's British & Commonwealth, which already has a 10.4 per cent stake in the company.

Guinness Mahon, the newly independent merchant bank after its approved demerger from GPG, opened at 90p and improved steadily to close at 104p.

Shares of GPG closed at 57p after the demerger.

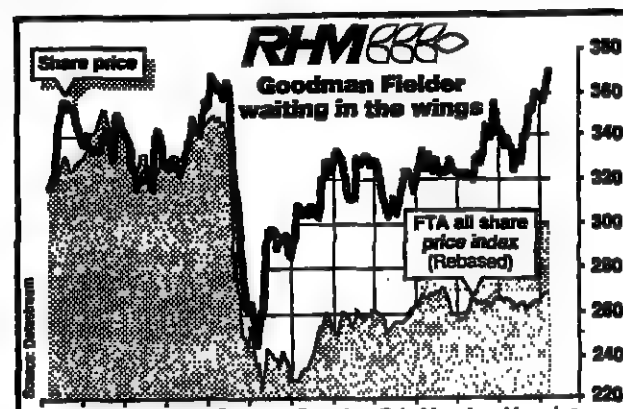
Elsewhere, equities shrugged aside the second increase in base lending rates in three

Vibroplant, the plant hire group, jumped 20p to 725p. It has changed its broker to James Capel and is expected to announce share-stimulating proposals to enhance the stock's marketability, with the forthcoming results. Dealers forecast pretax profits of £7 million against £4.6 million last time.

trading days and closed at their best levels of the day.

Dealers took a positive view and were generally pleased with the Government's move to combat inflationary dangers. The steady performance of Wall Street in the first hours of trading also helped sentiment, while hopes of fresh corporate activity in the next few days kept interest alive.

The FT-SE 100-share index moved strongly ahead in the



late afternoon to finish 13.5 points higher at 1,832.7, while the narrower FT 30-share index ended 8.4 points up at 1,452.8.

Gilts were encouraged by the brighter implications for inflation and closed with gains ranging to 1/2p.

Ranks' management last month reported an impressive set of interim results, showing a rise of more than a third to £72.5 million and is obviously ready to defend vigorously against any hostile antipodean takeover attempt.

Cadbury Schweppes, the confectionery and chocolate group, rose by 12p to 408p on a turnover of 4.4 million shares, as speculators continued to pin their hopes on an eventual bid by General Cinema of the US, which already has a 18.4 per cent stake in the company and bank finance readily available.

During that time, Goodman has been refused boardroom representation and was rejected when it tried to arrange a partnership deal.

As expected, shares of Arthur Shaw, the windows and patio doors group, made a good start when dealings commenced on the Unlisted Securities Market.

Placed at 105p by Guidehouse Securities, the broker, the shares opened at 116p and touched 119p before closing at 115p, for an opening premium of 10p.

Shares of Leigh Interests, the waste disposal contractor, continue to go from strength to strength, closing a further 10p higher at 253p.

Recently, investors have been chasing the shares higher in anticipation of a bumper set of annual results on Thursday. The company has forecast

Shares of FKI Babcock rose 5p to 127p on news that it was considering floating its US business. Fawcett Gordon, the broker, rates them a buy after the good results and forecasts £105 million for the current year.

Trading is buoyant and 28 per cent discount to the prospective overall market p/e of 10.5 is excessive.

pretax profits of not less than £4 million, against £2.5 million previously.

Yesterday's rise was accompanied by takeover chatter. A Caird & Sons, the

acquisitive waste disposal and property group, holds a 5.47 per cent stake in LI, and is said to be on the verge of selling it to BET, and that a full-scale offer for LI will follow.

Nu-Swift Industries, the fire extinguisher manufacturer and distributor, advanced 11p to 317p and this led to revived speculation that ADT — formerly Hawley — which owns a 20.3 per cent stake in the company, is adding to its holding prior to launching a full-scale bid.

Nu-Swift last month reported a 64 per cent leap in annual pretax profits to £24.4 million, with most of the improvement coming from its French operations.

The activities of one large buyer of Adwest, the diversified Berkshire engineer and property developer, during the past few weeks has led many dealers to believe that a stake-building operation is under way.

The shares jumped a further 28p to 350p as the mystery buyer continued to make his presence felt. Late last night, dealers were suggesting BTR, the industrial conglomerate, could well make a move.

Geoffrey Foster

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HT Hughes hits profit forecast

By Alison Eadie

HT Hughes, the waste management, demolition and transport group which joined the USM in February, made pretax profits in the year to end-February of £1.4 million, up 53 per cent. The group had forecast profits of not less than £1.35 million.

Demand continues to grow both in the hiring of skips and the volumes being disposed of at landfill sites, the company said. Chalk quarrying produced substantial revenues and good progress was made in seeking future sites for mineral extraction and landfill. Landfill air space reserves — the holes into which the rubbish is tipped — increased by 25 per cent last year, giving the group at least 20 years of future sites.

Earnings per share were 5.7p against 3.6p. The company, not paying a final dividend, but has forecast a 2.25p a share payout this year.

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FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

	1988	1987
Year to 31st March	£'000	£'000
Property sales and related activities	31,403	19,719
Profit before taxation	11,266	4,650
Earnings per share	6.8p	3.5p
Dividends per share	2.25p	1.125p

For copies of the Chairman's Statement and the Report and Accounts write to the Financial Director SHERATON SECURITIES INTERNATIONAL PLC, LEONFIELD HOUSE, CURZON STREET, LONDON W1Y 7FB.

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مكتبة الأصل

Bankers see UK influence growing in world economy

From Bailey Morris, Chicago

Britain's increasing role as an international capital zone has dramatically altered the traditional pattern of global financial flows, say leading international bankers who expect its influence on the world economy to grow in importance.

This was one of the key themes of the opening session of the International Monetary Conference in Chicago.

Michel Francois-Poncet, chief executive of Banque Paribas, said the traditional axis of north-south financial flows no longer existed. It had been replaced by capital movements within the "golden triangle" of London, New York and Tokyo.

Within the triangle, London's role has been expanded and will continue to grow

quickly as dollar-based investors from the US and Asia seek to diversify their investments in other currency zones. After the 1992 reforms in Europe, London's role will be even larger, according to M Francois-Poncet and other bankers at the conference.

But the emergence of the triangle and the huge movement of capital within it had brought new risks for international banking. Banks had moved from the time bomb of Third World debt to a new game that may be even more dangerous.

Cross-border investment within the banking community is now focused on mergers and acquisitions and leveraged buyout financing, which are risky, particularly in the high stakes deals which

result in hostile takeovers. The conference coincided with private talks by international banks on the growing trend towards global regulation of banks, as measured by the capital standards proposed by the Bank for International Settlements. The BIS is expected this summer to ratify rules requiring banks involved in cross-border transactions to achieve a capital-asset ratio of 8 per cent within a five-year period.

This was seen as the first step by world central banks to regulate the industry on a global basis.

For British, Canadian and West German banks the new standards present almost no problem. But the impact on Japanese banks, which have the lowest capital ratios in the

world, was expected to be dramatic.

"The new capital guidelines will induce Japanese banks to increase their ownership of Japanese government bonds because of their zero risk weight," said a leading banker. Officials said it would either slow Japan's expansion to merchant banking and other activities or accelerate the pace of de-regulation in the Tokyo market.

Mr Michael Blumenthal, Unisys chief, told the conference that the growing interdependence of the world financial system required new institutions and new ways of negotiating. He said the wave of the future was the implementation of regional, not multi-lateral initiatives.

'Poison pill' is planned at Amax

By Colin Campbell

Amax, the diversified United States natural resources group which in 1981 was threatened by a hostile bid at \$78.50 from Social, the oil company, is drawing up "poison pill" proposals so that it can defend itself against any future unwelcome takeover.

Amax, whose current share price is about \$20 (£11.11), said yesterday that this is now a growing practice among leading US corporations, and that as far as it is aware "nobody is on the prowl."

The "poison pill" procedure has been adopted by 500 US corporations in recent years, and by at least 40 large groups since Black Monday when share prices fell heavily. "The Amax board decided it was time we also addressed the question," a spokesman said.

Under the group's "poison pill" proposals, Amax shareholders are being offered one right for each share owned, which would be exercisable only after a third party acquired 20 per cent or more of Amax, or announced a tender offer to acquire 30 per cent.

Each right entitles the holder to buy half of an Amax share for \$35. Alternatively, the holder can use the right to buy shares in the acquirer - which in effect would frustrate a hostile takeover.

Amax may redeem the right "at any time before they become exercisable and in certain other circumstances" at 5 cents a share.

Other US corporations now planning similar "poison pill" procedures include Avon Products, Bankers Trust, International Paper, and Xerox.

Amax, which was hit financially in the mid 1980s by lower metal prices, has in recent years pulled itself back from the financial brink, and recently resumed the payment of quarterly dividends.

Howden court case starts

Committal proceedings on fraud and theft charges began at Guildhall, City of London, yesterday against Mr Ian Posgate, the former Lloyd's underwriter and three former directors of the Alexander Howden Group. The other men are Mr Jack Carpenter, the former deputy chairman, Mr Colin Hart, a former Lloyd's underwriter and Mr Kenneth Grob, the former Alexander Howden chairman.

COMMENT

Burst of enthusiasm for Mr Cube after canings

Poor Neil Shaw must be wondering what should be done in order to warm the City's reaction to Tate & Lyle. During the past few years, Mr Shaw has skillfully steered the group through some rough water. He has had to contend with the massively bureaucratic EEC sugar regime, with its quotas, import restrictions and inbuilt favouring of beet sugar refiners at the expense of those such as T&L which use cane.

Its move to get more deeply into beet sugar through the attempted purchase of S&W Berisford, the parent company of British Sugar Corporation, ran into a brick wall erected by the MSC.

Mr Shaw's arguments that he should be allowed to build a strong unified British sugar industry to cope with the onslaught of the larger Continental manufacturers sound fresh and relevant in the context of the battles over chocolate. A few years ago though, the smacked of self-interest and special pleading. Such are the pitfalls for those ahead of their time.

Undaunted, Mr Shaw and his colleagues switched their attentions elsewhere and, after a rough confrontation with the management of Staley International, a victorious T&L can now boast it is the largest manufacturer of sweeteners in the US market. Throughout these setbacks, the management has delivered a highly acceptable performance. During the five years to next September profits will have climbed 87 per cent if market forecasts for this year prove to be accurate. Mr Shaw's reward was a niggardly share rating, implying

T&L's mainstream business lacks quality to a remarkable extent.

But there is much more to T&L's management than passive acceptance that it relies on some mighty tough markets for its living. Yesterday brought a flicker, maybe even a burst of enthusiasm, for Mr Cube in the City on the unambiguously excellent news that three weeks after the Staley purchase, almost half the cost has been recouped by selling surplus assets. Could this betoken some belated recognition in the City?

T&L's shares are intriguingly torn between bull and bear factors. But at present the scope on the upside far outweighs any counter arguments. T&L is maddeningly prevented from the standard corporate route to reshaping its balance sheet - a good old-fashioned rights issue - by the miserable rating of its shares. Looking ahead to 1989, when the full benefits of Staley will be included, profits might reach £150 million and earnings per share could emerge at 110p, according to BZW, giving an earnings multiple of little more than 7 on today's 79p share price.

But the low-tech bulk commodity producer of today may be close to a switch to a high-quality income stream based on intensive sweeteners such as its joint venture with Johnson & Johnson, Sucralose. The market for such products is vast, in the US alone. With the Sucralose launch perhaps as close as next financial year, it would be wise to give T&L's management a little more benefit of the doubt.

The Bank takes control

To raise base rates once is unfortunate, as Oscar Wilde might have said, to have to do so twice in three trading days smacks of carelessness. But, in fact, the decision to go for "the other half" of last Thursday's base rate increase at the earliest opportunity has probably allowed the Bank of England to grab back the initiative on monetary policy from the markets.

The Bank's move indicates quite a degree of concern about overheating pressures, which are showing up in a wide range of indicators. House prices are rising at a rate which is troubling Bank and Treasury officials.

Consumer credit is still growing strongly, with the apparent slowdown in April merely due to the timing of the Easter holidays. Any hopes that consumer demand was tailing off were dashed by yesterday's upward revision in the April retail sales figures.

As important are pay trends. With productivity growth slowing, the last thing the economy can afford is an acceleration in pay increases. But the CBI's pay databank shows this is just what is occurring.

Manufacturing pay settlements averaged 6 per cent in the first quarter, up

from 5.5 per cent in the final quarter of last year and the highest quarterly figure for nearly two years. Settlements in service industries, at 6.9 per cent on average, are running at their highest level since the second half of 1985.

The big question is whether the two base rate increases since noon on Thursday will cool those areas where the economy is overheating. Credit, house prices and pay are notoriously immune to interest rate changes. Indeed, the main short-term effect of the past few days is likely to be to push inflation higher, as sterling's fall boosts import prices.

There has been a symmetry about the base rate response to sterling's fall, with the new base rate level of 8.5 per cent established roughly at the point where rates were last cut to this level. But it is sensible not to take this analysis too far. The general view is that the authorities will be content to get back to 9 per cent base rates and a DM3 pound - the mix prevailing before the March uncapping of the pound.

But concern about inflation has been heightened since early spring. It may well be the target is for a somewhat higher level, both for sterling and base rates, than prevailed then.

Braithwaite moves into the black

By Our City Staff

Braithwaite, the fast-growing industrial holding company, is paying its first dividend since 1985 with a final payment of 4.5p net.

It revealed pretax profits yesterday of £3.72 million, against a loss of £248,000 the previous year, meeting its profits forecast made during the agreed takeover bid for SPP, the Reading, Berkshire, designer and supplier of fluid handling systems.

Braithwaite's turnover jumped from £8 million to £30 million last year and earnings per share were 24.8p.

The principal contributor to profits was the Andrews division, which distributes and hires portable heating, air conditioning, cleaning and drying equipment.

For the 10 months Andrews has been a part of the group, it contributed operating profits of more than £4 million, despite the mild winter.

The engineering division was restructured during the year to eliminate its loss-making activities and reorganize the remaining businesses.

The company said that the acquisition of SPP will allow the group to become one of the leading specialist equipment hire operations in Britain, through the combination of Andrews and Sykes, a subsidiary of SPP. Integrating Andrews with Sykes will lead to cost savings, and will allow the Andrews products to be distributed more widely.



Amersham's Dr Stuart Burgess (left) and Sir Edwin Nixon (Photograph: Chris Harris)

Amersham at record £25m

By Carol Fergusson

Amersham International, the manufacturer of radioactive materials and medical diagnostic equipment, has produced record profits for the eighth consecutive year. Pretax profits jumped 14 per cent to £25.3 million on turnover up 11 per cent to £165 million.

The market was pleasantly surprised by the results and the share price held steady at 460p. Analysts had previously downgraded their profits fore-

casts for Amersham in the light of sterling's strength - Amersham exports 88 per cent of its turnover. However, Sir Edwin Nixon, the chairman, gave a warning that Amersham's financial performance will continue to be affected by currency factors.

Sir Edwin said that the worst impacts of the strengthened pound and its effect on increasing competition were avoided by productivity im-

provement and effective treasury management.

"Our aim is to grow faster, both through organic growth in our core business and through acquisitions in related business," he said. "In the early stages we were productively pushed, how we are moving towards being market-led."

The dividend was increased by 22 per cent, to 10p net. *Times, page 26*

Borthwicks jumps to £511,000 at half time

By Michael Tate

Borthwicks, the food group forced by losses to sell its Australian operations in January, is recovering. Pretax profits for the six months to end-March are up from just £37,000 last time - there was a £2.2 million loss for the full year - to £511,000.

The figure does not include £588,000 net profits made on the £10.8 million Australian sale, included as an extraordinary item. But the disposal

is reflected in the sharp fall in the interest charge, from £1.25 million to £710,000.

The sale has almost eliminated the group's once-overwhelming debts, said Mr Lewis Robertson, Borthwicks' chairman, yesterday.

The British companies showed a useful improvement in operating profit, while the remaining international businesses were disappointing, Mr Robertson added.

Meetings by satellite network planned

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

Europe's first satellite business communication network, enabling companies to hold live conferences with subsidiaries throughout the continent, will be announced today.

The network will be operated by the Business Television Corporation, a joint venture by Cable Corporation, JC Penney Communications and the Private Satellite Network of the US, and Swedish

Telecoms International. BTC signs an agreement today with Creg Hotels, whose British and European hotels will be equipped with receiving equipment and television screens, turning them into international conference centres.

Companies will be able to hire the network - initially centred in leading British cities and European capitals - on an hourly or daily rate

Dark side of a debut

Despite a surprise 14p share price premium, the debut of Guinness Mahon on the stock market yesterday was not, I hear, an entirely happy affair. For behind the demerger of the merchant bank from GPG were the redundancies of some 100 members of staff. They have all lost their jobs, am told, since Geoffrey Bell took over as executive deputy chairman earlier this year. With the intention of cutting costs, he reduced the total staff from around 800 to 700, and has consequently incurred severance pay expenses of up to £2 million. Keeping a wary eye on developments within Guinness Mahon are the constituent parts of the business, including the merchant bank, the stockbroker Henderson Crosthwaite, two market-making firms and Guinness Mahon's fund management offshoot, Guinness Flight, which has £1.5 billion under management. More than one of them has, I hear, been having tentative talks with potential predators, in case the path of the newly demerged company should not, in the event, run smoothly. Describing internal reaction to the demerger as "neutral", one insider tells me: "With settled and proper management it could be an extremely good business. But if there is continued uncertainty you could start to see parts of the business walking out of the door." Perhaps, in the end, that premium is not so surprising after all.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

HK Bank withdrawals

The job loss toll from Hong-kong and Shanghai Bank, following the reduction of its retail banking activities in its Bishopsgate, London, office is, I can reveal, 42. The bank has been winding down its retail activities since 1984, when it acquired a 14.9 per cent stake in Midland Bank. Even more staff members were laid off earlier, in two batches, but following these latest sackings a spokesman said there were

unlikely to be any more "for the time being." The retail office has, however, not been entirely closed down. It will cease to operate current accounts, security accounts and security services. "We are trying to move away from the man in the street," the bank says. "Unless, of course, you're megamark." "Private banking facilities to high net worth individuals will continue to be offered," it adds.

Tidy mind

Lynton Jones, executive director for Europe of Nasdaq, is clearly one of that growing City breed which would not be seen dead with anything remotely resembling a Filofax. Multi-talented Jones has won a competition launched in the

City Diary earlier this year to invent a name for a revolutionary desk-tidy system designed by ex-Guards officer Richard Elliot-Square. His winning entry was Desk FX and won him a £100 leather-bound personal organizer. But Jones has, I hear, declined to accept the prize, requesting that a £100 donation be made to Comic Relief instead.

Foiled a gain

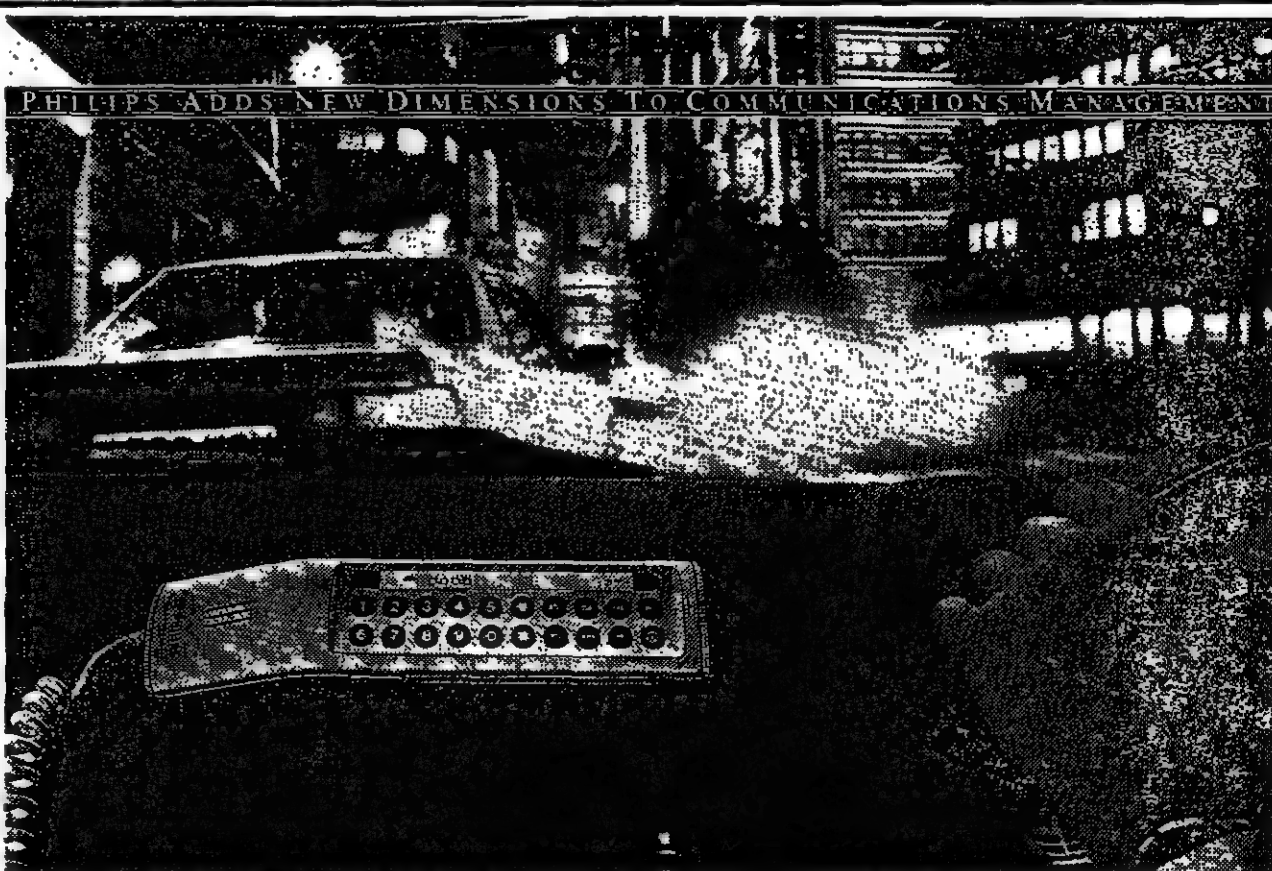
You could soon be getting your bank statement on a postcard - but the postman will not be any the wiser. The postcards, backed with adhesive aluminium foil to conceal their written content, have just gone on sale in Japan and are being snapped up by banks. Tokyo stock market firms and other companies which regularly send out confidential statements to their clients.

Building a new image

Has the arrival of former Dixons man Gerald Corbett as finance director of Redland, the building materials giant, got anything to do with the glitzy image the company is presenting to the City? I hear that some 20 institutional fund managers will today be whizzed around the country in two helicopters bearing the Redland logo. Starting at Budden Wood quarry in Leicestershire, they will fly to a tile plant in Gloucestershire before touching down at a brick plant in Dorset, Surrey. Presentations at each venue will be made by the three new boys on the Redland board - jovial George Phillipson, the elder statesman at 49, who is in charge of the group's aggregates operation; Peter Johnson, aged 41, who masterminded the company's brick interests and is well-known for insisting on a dry sherry before lunch, and the baby of them all, Kevin Abbott, aged 33, who runs the roof tile operation. His elevation to the corporate heights means that Abbott once a research analyst at J Henry Schroder Wagg, the merchant bank is now the company's youngest board member.

● The Japanese have unveiled a video telephone for domestic use, allowing callers to see still images of the person on the other end of the line. Expected to cost around \$400 (£220) each, they should soon be exported to Europe and the US.

Carol Leonard

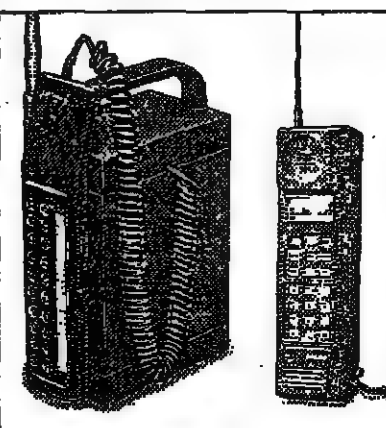


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PHILIPS

Static textile demand hits growth rates

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

World demand for fibres will remain at modest levels, with annual growth of 2.3 per cent a year likely to 1995.

This is the conclusion drawn from new estimates in a report by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

It points out that, between 1980 and 1983, there has been virtually no growth in world demand.

In the 1970s, there were annual growth rates of 2.5 per cent — a decline from the 4.3 per cent rates seen in the previous decade.

The switch of fibre processing to developing countries, with their lower labour costs, has been continuing, the report says.

The United States and Western Europe in particular have seen their industries contract, as processing has gone to China and other parts of East and South-east Asia.

In the early 1970s, the US and Europe carried out 36 per cent of the primary textile

processing, but that share has fallen to 28 per cent.

Mill consumption of fibres to produce textiles is expected to rise in China by more than 60 per cent by 1995, while a decline is forecast in US consumption.

The EEC can expect a rise in consumption of about 3 per cent between now and 1995.

Additional demand for textiles emerging in Western industrialized countries is expected to be met mostly from Far East production.

Clothing imports into the US have been growing at 15 per cent a year since 1979, which means they would account for 83 per cent of total final consumption by 1995 if the trend continues.

That would seem to be an unacceptable level, against which government action to trim back imports is likely, says the report.

Textile Outlook International No. 17: £60 from EIU, 40 Duke Street, London W1A 1DW.

Industry told to prepare for 1992

By Our Industrial Editor

Textiles productivity has moved ahead sharply as exports have risen, Mr Barry Spencer, chairman of the British Textile Confederation, said in London.

Productivity rose 8 per cent last year, compared with a 2 per cent improvement in 1986. But throughout the present decade, productivity has been on a rising trend, improving by 52 per cent since 1980.

The tone was set in 1981, when there was a 10 per cent improvement.

Investment in the industry last year was up 12 per cent. Mr Spencer appealed for the reviving British industry to act now to prepare for 1992's single European market.

He said: "Much of the opportunity for trading growth already exists and the prizes will be gained by the early starters."

There had been a heartening growth already in exports to other Community national markets, said Mr Spencer. In 1987, textile exports there had risen 14 per cent and clothing

exports by 29 per cent, he pointed out.

The investment surge was welcomed by Mr John Major, Chief Secretary of the Treasury, who also spoke at the lunch.

He said the investment on new machinery had been dramatic, but added that growth also depended on investment in marketing.

Mr Major said: "Only by producing goods to a high standard and providing value for money to the consumer will the industry continue to grow and meet the challenges of your overseas competitors. The textile industry's performance in this area is already showing a marked improvement."

He also underlined the importance of education and training, which had seemed to be a casualty in the years of textile industry decline. Training in the industry still seemed relatively weak and the reports of skill shortages told their own story.

An EEC merger policy is essential to keep out Europe's free riders

Edward McMillan-Scott, the MEP for York, argues that the Suchard bid for Rowntree should be referred to the Monopolies Commission while EEC agrees priorities for 1992 marketplace

The real Little Englanders in the Rowntree case are not the people of York and their politicians but those who fail to accept a European solution to a European problem.

The Swiss want Rowntree because it is ready for the single European market of 1992. Whitehall is not.

It is in Britain's interest to encourage a European Economic Community-wide merger strategy which both liberalizes the laws of EEC countries and provides ground rules which can be respected by outsiders.

Lord Young of Graffham, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, missed the opportunity of a Monopolies Commission inquiry into the Nestlé bid for Rowntree to examine our attitude to 1992-style mergers.

He and other industry ministers — but not the Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary — took pains to let Switzerland off the hook. Their respective practices, he claims, are their loss.

In February 1983 the Swiss government promulgated a law which would restrict Swiss companies from writing their own rules to block foreign bids and shareholdings.

However, the bill has been drifting in the notoriously protectionist Swiss parliament for five years because, as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development comments, "a marked divergence of views between the two chambers."

The British Government's Blue Paper on merger policy, published in March, does not develop the 1992 dimension. It even states "the subject of the review reported here has been UK mergers control, operated by the UK national authorities, and has not included the future of EEC merger control."

However, on June 22, EEC ministers meet to look once again at a proposal for an EEC regulation covering mergers and takeovers.

The merger control regulation has been blocked in its various forms by France and Britain since 1973, although it would provide the common ground rules we need for the European single market.

The proposed regulation would require prior vetting of mergers where worldwide turnover exceeded £700 million and EEC market share would exceed 20 per cent.

Lord Young wrote to me on May 16 to say that "we are participating constructively" in working group discussions, but "without commitment to our final position" on the merger control regulation.

Press reports say that resistance to the EEC measure is coming from Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, who fears that the Bank of England could lose its power of veto over any foreign bids for holdings of more than 15 per cent of British banks.

A distinction is apparently being drawn in Whitehall between banking and other forms of economic activity, such as making chocolates.

I met Herr Martin Bange, the retiring West German economics minister, recently to discuss the Rowntree case. He said a European merger policy was "essential as we approach 1992."

It is clear that the Germans, whose own commercial laws are more restrictive than ours and who stand to lose much more "sovereignty," are determined to use their presidency of the EEC to push through the merger controls.

In France, the Conseil de Concurrence and in Germany, the Kartellamt, are the national watchdogs. They operate on the same lines as Britain's Office of Fair Trading. In France, as in Britain, 25 per cent of market share can constitute a monopoly, in Germany it is 30 per cent.

Both countries are investigating the effect on their



Still fighting: Edward McMillan-Scott in Strasbourg with Rowntree brands which the Swiss are desperate to acquire

own territory of a Rowntree merger: both are capable of requiring divestment.

If the French or Germans find that a merged Rowntree could be anti-competitive it will underline the need for a Community solution.

At the European Commission in Brussels, Lord Cockfield, the architect of the 1992 programme, told me that his intention was to improve competition in Europe. There would be much restructuring of industry, he said. But to be effective, there must be respect for EEC legislation.

The corporate perestroika of 1992 is causing outsiders like the Americans and Japanese,

as well as countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) — Austria, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland — to reassess their relationships with the Community. On June 12 and 13, EFTA trade ministers meet M Willy de Clerq, the European Commissioner for external relations, to discuss terms.

It is essential that EFTA does not become the European Free Ride Association, and we should be deploying both political and economic muscle to prevent it. Lord Young seems unwilling to use either against Switzerland, EFTA's leading member.

In 1984, when Nestlé was

bidding for Carnation, the Office of Fair Trading recommended a reference to the Monopolies Commission.

This was rejected by Mr Norman Tebbit, the Trade Secretary at that time. Perhaps Sir Gordon Borrie of the OFT is once bitten, twice shy, like the consumers of Nestlé's other British acquisitions such as Findus, Crosse & Blackwell, Libby's canned fruits and Ashbourne mineral waters. All have seen their market share halved since 1979.

The Swiss are using financial muscle where marketing strategies have failed. A Brussels newsletter, *Agence Europe*, reports that the Swiss insurance company Winterthur has just bought the Italian company Intercontinental Assicurazioni because this will "allow it to sell car insurance in the 12 EEC member states, from Italy."

A conference taking place next month at the College of Europe in Bruges on the EEC and EFTA under the title "More than just good friends?" enjoys four commercial sponsors — all Swiss: Ciba-Geigy, Nestlé, Sandoz and Winterthur. Last month, Sandoz altered its share structure to block further foreign investors.

In the chocolate sector, Rowntree has demonstrated its ability to create new products like Lion Bar and sell them throughout Europe. It now sells more After Eight on the Continent than in Britain, and employs 3,000 workers at factories in France, Germany and the Netherlands.

Nestlé has bought the Italian firm Perugina and fought unsuccessfully against Suchard last January for control of Côte d'Or, the leading Belgian chocolate maker.

The Swiss strategy — to ride piggy-back on established EEC companies all the way to 1992 — is clear. Britain should stand by Rowntree until we have reconciled ourselves to 1992.

The Suchard bid — formalized since the OFT recommendation — should now be referred to the MMC. That would give us, and the Swiss parliament, three months to sort out priorities.

Mr McMillan-Scott is also the national co-ordinator of the Conservative 1992 Clubs.

Oil rig demand nears record

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The latest figures for exploration-rig hiring confirm Government predictions that the North Sea offshore industry is about to enter a new phase of development.

This summer every available jack-up rig for exploring in the shallower waters of the southern sector of the North Sea has been contracted, the first time since September 1985 that there has been 100 per cent utilization.

There are now 44 jack-up rigs operating in the North Sea — the record was 46 — and there are signs that some contractors are moving surplus capacity from the Gulf of Mexico across the Atlantic to take advantage of the higher activity in the North Sea.

However, many rigs idle in the Gulf of Mexico are comparatively unsophisticated and unable to meet the needs of North Sea drilling. Many would also need expensive modifications to meet North Sea certification standards.

Petrodata, the oil industry consultant, said: "The stream of new inquiries for jack-ups shows no sign of abating. Operators are tendering for as far ahead as October as a hedge against the shortfall. During the summer the shortage may frustrate as many as five requirements until rigs begin to come free in October. Without any new requirements at all full employment would extend beyond October."

"The summer peak of spot drilling programmes coincides with the start of a number of long-term contracts, typically for development drilling. Several contracts for up to three years are due to start this autumn with no rig selected." Rig owners are now able to demand twice the hire rates they were asking last year.

Property sale

Property Security Investment Trust has sold its Ceribit Investments offshoot for £3 million. Ceribit's only asset is the Thameside Industrial Estate, at Silvertown in London's East End, valued at £1.75 million in the balance sheet.

Standard Chartered

Base Rate

On and after 7th June 1988 Standard Chartered Bank's Base Rate for lending is being increased from 8.00% to 8.50%

Standard Chartered Bank
Head Office 38 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 4DE
Tel. 01-280 7500 Telex 885951

Barclays Bank Base Rate.

Barclays Bank PLC and Barclays Bank Trust Company Limited announce that with effect from 6th June 1988 their Base Rate increased from 8% to 8½%

BARCLAYS

Barclays Bank PLC and Barclays Bank Trust Company Limited are members of I.M.R.O.
Reg. Office: 54 Lombard St., EC3P 3AH, Reg. No's 1026167 and 920880.



Coutts & Co. announce that their Base Rate is increased from 8.00% to 8.50% per annum with effect from the 7th June, 1988 until further notice.

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate linked to Coutts Base Rate will be varied accordingly.

Coutts & Co
440 Strand, London, WC2R 0QS



National Westminster Bank PLC

NatWest announces that with effect from and including Tuesday 7th June 1988 its Base Rate is increased from 8.00% to 8.50% per annum.

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate of interest linked to NatWest Base Rate will be varied accordingly.

41 Lothbury London EC2P 2BP

Bank of Scotland Base Rate

Bank of Scotland announces that, with effect from Monday 6th June 1988 its Base Rate will be increased from 8.00% per annum to 8.50% per annum.

BANK OF SCOTLAND
A FRIEND FOR LIFE

Lloyds Bank Base Rate.

Lloyds Bank Plc has increased its Base Rate from 8 per cent to 8.5 per cent p.a. with effect from Monday 6 June 1988.

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate of interest linked to Lloyds Bank Base Rate will be varied accordingly.

The change in Base Rate will also be applied from the same date by the United Kingdom branch of The National Bank of New Zealand Limited.



THE THOROUGHBRED BANK.

Lloyds Bank Plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3AB



Girobank plc Base Rate

Girobank announces that with effect from close of business on 6 June 1988 its Base Rate was increased from 8.0% to 8.5% per annum.

Reg Office: 10 Milk Street London EC2V 6JH
Reg No: 1950000



The Royal Bank of Scotland plc

Base Rate

The Royal Bank of Scotland announces that with effect from close of business on 7 June 1988 its Base Rate for advances will be increased from 8% to 8½% per annum.

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc Registered Office: 38 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, EH2 2YR. Registered in Scotland No. 90212.

[illegible]

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Australia dollar 2.2717-2.2745
Bahrain dinar 0.6770-0.6810

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

6.5525	Italy	1277.5-1278.5
1.7182	Belgium (Corn)	35.95-36.00

MONEY MARKETS

13

1 day: 7% 7 day: 7% 1 mth: 8%
3 mth: 8% 6 mth: 8% 12 mth: 9%

54.00-464.50 Close: \$463.00-463.50

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100

COMMODITIES

... ..

44.50	POB	Vol 4934	15250-15300	13750-13800	18894	Standard
45.50	Aug 231.6-31.4	Mar 225.0-24.6	† (Cents per Troy oz.) * (\$ per tonne)			
46.50						

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Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 28.)

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 28.)

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438	300	Semars (Jant)	438	438
142	135	Lit Paper	138	138
333	232	Upper Waller	322	322	71.9	3.0	71.9
335	270	VPI Gp	308	315	4.7	1.5	18.2

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720	585	Reactor	705	130	18.5	20
721	586	Reactor	706	131	1.9	20
722	587	Reactor	707	132	1.9	20
723	588	Reactor	708	133	1.9	20
724	589	Reactor	709	134	1.9	20
725	590	Reactor	710	135	1.9	20
726	591	Reactor	711	136	1.9	20
727	592	Reactor	712	137	1.9	20
728	593	Reactor	713	138	1.9	20
729	594	Reactor	714	139	1.9	20
730	595	Reactor	715	140	1.9	20
731	596	Reactor	716	141	1.9	20
732	597	Reactor	717	142	1.9	20
733	598	Reactor	718	143	1.9	20
734	599	Reactor	719	144	1.9	20
735	600	Reactor	720	145	1.9	20
736	601	Reactor	721	146	1.9	20
737	602	Reactor	722	147	1.9	20
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739	604	Reactor	724	149	1.9	20
740	605	Reactor	725	150	1.9	20
741	606	Reactor	726	151	1.9	20
742	607	Reactor	727	152	1.9	20
743	608	Reactor	728	153	1.9	20
744	609	Reactor	729	154	1.9	20
745	610	Reactor	730	155	1.9	20
746	611	Reactor	731	156	1.9	20
747	612	Reactor	732	157	1.9	20
748	613	Reactor	733	158	1.9	20
749	614	Reactor	734	159	1.9	20
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184	Ch			

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SHOES, LEATHER									
100	85	Hoodlum Suits	180	100	+1	1.3	1.4	23.2	
273	155	Lumber House	157	267	+2	11.5	7.2	5.9	
100	185	Edward Cross	183	187	-	8.1	4.4	9.5	

200 Signs		270	285	+8	6.7	2.4		
TEXTILES								
380	280	Alled Text	335	342	-5	12.6	3.7	16.2
278	225	Boyle (Latex)	250	260	-10	7.7	8.9	11.4
176	105	Bedroom (A)	112	117	-5	7.9	8.9	11.4
63	33	Berlin	27	42	-15	10.3	6.1	27.6
256	188	Br. Walker	30	35	+5	6.2	3.0	20.0
18	87	Couch	71	74	-3	15.0	4.7	13.7
384	256	Shower (in)	357	340	+17	6.0	3.8	13.7
384	115	Condition	37	37	0	15.0	4.7	13.7

131	187	Opener	155	119	+	3.7	32	81
132	187	Opener	155	119	+	3.7	32	81
133	171	190	James (John)	153	190	-	6.3	40
205	185	183	Richard Broadbent	195	205	-	8.0	45
171	71	51	Heating Postboxes	71	71	+	5.0	35
182	182	182	Wagon	215	222	-	6.9	40
182	182	182	Wagon	215	222	-	6.9	40
208	228	228	Lamp	277	282	-	5.6	34
145	285	285	Laser	355	365	-	8.0	25
144	281	281	Leads	312	317	-	4.8	42
60	60	60	Lydes (S)	74	79	-	6.5	5.8
380	280	280	Wagon (Hops)	305	305	+	6.6	35
203	203	203	Postbox (H)	198	200	-	7.8	38
73	73	73	Reservoir	75	77	+	2.6	47

177	121	Stellar	162	105	7.1	8.8	14.3
170	80	Silver	162	105	13.4	13.8	8.2
120	80	Swanlake (W)	85	70	●	●	●
75	59	Swanlake	85	70	3.1	4.8	14.4
272	167	Teardrop Jersey	188	176	●	●	●
120	83	Tomatoes	558	571	●	●	●
567	415	Tonnet	97	81	10.7	1.5	8.1
20	24	Wheat Trust	94	49	8.2	5.5	13.5
240	195	Yachette	210	220	11.0	5.1	7.1

● Ex dividend a Ex alt b Forecast dividend c Interfer payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment h Pre-merger figures i Forecast earnings j Ex other r Ex rights a Ex scrip or share split t Tax-free .. No significant data.

1

TECHNOLOGY

The bird man who found a high-technology role

If you want something to happen, then tell Robert Longstaffe it cannot be done. The effect is like pressing a start button.

Mr Longstaffe, 37, is probably the world's unlikely candidate for high technology. After spending five years at the bottom of various fields, watching birds for the Ministry of Agriculture, he quit to see if he could earn a living out of making reproductions of old-fashioned flutes, lutes and harps. He soon discovered, more or less by accident, that wooden toy-making was just as enjoyable and more cost-effective than the instruments.

His low-tech image could not have been more suitable. There he was with a handful of employees in a small workshop next to an orchard.

Their only neighbours in the isolated Oxfordshire village were next door's chickens. And then Mr Longstaffe shocked his rivals by plunging into new technology.

Technology is all very well for those who are mass-producing plastics but it can be a dirty word among craftsmen who are working in wood. "Once we started to grow, we had a choice between running a sweat shop - which isn't why I came into this business - or finding a mechanized process," he said.

Having experimented first with waterjet-cutting, he realized it was too limited in its application. He did, however,

PROFILE

By Ann Kent

like the perfect repeatability of the cutting action that was made possible because it was computer-controlled.

"So I wondered if we wouldn't do better with a laser," he said.

Everyone told him it was impossible. "It's been tried," said the furniture makers, "and it burns the wood."

The American toy-makers said: "People have spent millions of dollars researching this. It's a non-starter."

The kindly owner of an industrial laser allowed Mr Longstaffe to try out their equipment. When the smoke cleared, they all gazed gloomily at a small, very charred piece of wood.

But Mr Longstaffe was not ready to give up. After all, lasers were being used successfully and safely in medicine.

All that was needed was some fine-tuning to improve the focusing, a power reduction and a damping-down of any burning effects.

Undeterred by the knowledge that this kind of research and development can and has run into millions, Mr Longstaffe hired time on a Ferranti laser and adapted it to his purposes.

He wanted to fulfil every puzzle-maker's dream - to make a cut so good perfect that you could not see the join,

to produce wooden puzzles that did not flake gently under their cling wrapping as they lay on the shelves.

But even more important is the type of cut that can be achieved by a computer-assisted laser. Corners are completely squared, rather than slightly rounded as with most machine-cutting. Perfect elliptical cuts - formerly achievable only by skilled hand-workers - are now no problem at all.

Mr Longstaffe started to play around with the laser last winter and, like his predecessors, found problems with sticky tar deposits - a by-product of burning - where the cuts had been made. But it

Horizons now broadened

has taken him only a few months to achieve results that satisfied him.

His process involves the laser remaining in a fixed position while the work to be cut is moved about under computer control by means of a numerically controlled table.

The problem of reducing the power while not slowing down the speed of cutting has been solved by pulsing the laser beam and by adjustments to the balance of the helium, hydrogen and sometimes argon generated in the bellows end of the device.

Seeing what the laser can do

- and the fact that he will soon be taking delivery of his own - has broadened his horizons considerably.

He now intends to run a specialist laser cutting service to all manufacturers working in wood.

"If anything, the laser cutting process for wood will have wider applications in the furniture industry than in the toy industry. It is far better than traditional routing for fretted work, and we are currently cutting 25mm oak with it," he said.

"We keep speaking to people in both the toy and furniture industry who tell us that what we are trying can't be done. And we leave them with samples of what the laser can do, so they can think it over for themselves."

Now Mr Longstaffe is chasing development money from the Department of Trade and Industry to finance research into speeding up the process. And he is discussing overseas licensing of the software programs that control both the laser and the numerically controlled table with the British Technology Group.

He acknowledges his tremendous luck in getting so far for so little money because of the interest and co-operation of research scientists.

His research and development costs have been only about £180,000 partly because he is a one-man band.



It's all done by lasers: Robert Longstaffe at his workshop

Can the network finally make it to a wider audience?

By Geoff Wheelwright

Computer pundits have said that every year of the past three would be the year in which the personal computer network finally comes of age.

But there is reason to believe that in the second half of 1988 even the most hardened industry-watchers may be convinced that this is finally going to happen.

A network is simply a combination of specialized computer software and electronics that allow computers to be linked up to one another via a cable in such a way that they can share information, computer resources, printers and computer software.

Until recently, however, there have not been any widely accepted standards for the use of computer networks and that has greatly frustrated their development and acceptance by potential customers.

The greatest impediment to the use of these networks has been the operating system. Microsoft's MS-DOS, the system used on most PCs, was designed to be used on single computers used by single operators.

It was not designed for a large number of computer users to work together with one another over a network. Thus, those who have pioneered the work in computer networks have done so by providing their own "add-ons" to MS-DOS.

Companies such as Novell have built a huge business around this method of over-

coming the limitations of MS-DOS and they are expected to play an important role in the future of personal computer networks.

But it is the OS/2 operating system designed for IBM's new PS/2 computers, announced last April but still to arrive, that could turn 1988 into the year of the network.

It will at last provide personal computer users with the kind of base level software needed to run a full-blown network, while at the same time taking advantage of the popularity of recent IBM networking hardware such as the Token Ring system.

Token Ring has already become so popular that other companies have successfully cloned it.

This form of imitation is what built the IBM PC into a standard and could well do the same for IBM's Token Ring system.

Robert Madge, founder of Madge Networks, recently became the first to announce an expansion board that will allow PS/2 computers to connect to its own or IBM's Token Ring network without the use of special IBM circuitry.

"The timing has been very fortunate for us - it helped us establish a user base when our products were in demand from day one," explains Mr Madge.

"People feel they are acting foolishly if they don't have at least two suppliers - and IBM may have trouble matching the demand for Token Ring."

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service on Maidenhead (0628) 30722.



Founder returns to Atari

Nolan Bushnell, the man who began the video game craze with Pong in the early 1970s, intends to return to developing the games for the Atari.

Mr Bushnell, aged 45, founded Atari with \$250 in 1972 and sold it to Warner Communications in 1976 for \$28 million after his company established the video game as a significant part of American culture.

He said an agreement had been reached between Atari and his present company, Axion, which he formed in 1983 to make electronic toys. Axion will develop video games for Atari.

"We know the Atari system inside and out," Mr Bushnell said, "but the software we can do now almost makes it feel like a completely new system."

Riding the wave of a resurgence in video games, Atari claims a 20 per cent share of what it estimates was a \$1 billion market in 1987 and will be twice that in 1988.

The company estimates that the market leader, Nintendo, has a 70 per cent share.

But the machine that started it all, the Atari 2600, still has by far the largest installed base, at about 26 million.

Mr Bushnell said: "Probably half are in the closet."

He added: "My goal is to get half of those dusted off and back in play."

Atari has returned to profitability from heavy losses since Warner sold it to Jack Tramiel, a former Commodore International executive, four years ago.

Mr Bushnell said last week that looking at Atari made him feel his "child has grown up, gone through a rocky adolescence and become a responsible, mature adult".

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- implementing the changes needed, to prepare for the extension of compulsory competition,
- reviewing the system of accounting for support services. In addition the postholder will be expected to play a role in the day to day management of the section.

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LEGAL & FINANCIAL

In touch with the Archers

Like every other crack investigative reporter I yearn to solve one of those intriguing puzzles of politics, crime, or literature which has captured the popular imagination.

Some may search for Kim Philby's Third (or Fourth or Fifth) Man. Others pursue the Mr Big's of the Underworld. But, in all modesty, I may claim to have taken on a much tougher assignment.

Inspired by my wife's daily dose of *The Archers* I set out to unmask the identity of the Birmingham firm of solicitors which now employs Mark Hebden, Ambridge's answer to LA Law.

Now just in case there are any of you too busy to have kept fully up-to-date with the everyday story of country (and now city) folk let me remind you that young Mark Hebden has recently quit the quill pens of Borehamston and gone to work for a souped-up firm of solicitors in Brum where it is all Computers and Company and Commercial.

So who has the pleasure of his services? Is it Evershed & Tomkinson, the firm named by the *Legal 500* as going "from strength-to-strength" in the West Midlands. Or is it Wragge & Co, founder member of the M5 Group? Or perhaps it was Needham & James who tantalised me with the prospect of a forthcoming announcement of major significance. Or maybe even Edge & Ellison, Hatwell Pritchett, the largest firm in town, whose

While Birmingham may not top the list of cities

in which everyone would choose to live and work,

Edward Fennell discovers

it is one of the most interesting and lucrative

places for those employed in the legal profession



unlisted stock market work. And at the top of the pile Peat Marwick McLintock is expanding so fast that next year the firm will move into an enormous new office close to the Cathedral Square.

As it happens Birmingham is Peat's largest office outside London and the 35 partners are reckoned to be a bunch of young and dynamic go-getters. With a thriving management consultancy practice (with special expertise in advanced manufacturing technology) and 27 per cent of all publicly quoted companies in the Midlands Peats is the one to beat.

When it comes to legal transactions however, Peats has no hesitation in recommending local firms of solicitors. "Frankly we would rarely refer any of our clients to one of the big London firms," said Angela Stokoe the marketing manager. "Birmingham law firms are extremely good, they can do just as professional a job as anyone in London. In any case we prefer to deal with someone who is just around the corner."

A major beneficiary of Birmingham's current property boom is Evershed & Tomkinson where property lawyer Adrian Bland enthuses about the strength of Birmingham's cultural life and new initiatives for the inner-city area. With a strong London office as well as number of clients in the South East Evershed's can claim to have a significant presence in the capital. But it still

Major firms are starting to invest high stakes

senior partner John Wardle told me that he had increased the number of qualified staff by over 30 in the last 18 months.

To be honest I never discovered exactly who had Mark Hebden on their books. But by the end of the day my suspicions were strongly directed at Pinnent & Co, one of whose partners is an adviser to the Historic Homes Association (of which Grey Gables is, I am certain, a member) and which is also making a name for itself in the professional indemnity market (a subject upon which Mark Hebden is an expert).

Of course, generally speaking, Brummies don't have much time for fantasies of rural gentility. And they certainly won't let diplomatic considerations get in the way of their candour. Even sophisticated accountants are honest to a fault.

Peter Maxwell the senior partner of Coopers & Lybrand, for example, said that he was reluctant to load me down with one of his brochures because, like all brochures, it was "boring and mundane". Another accountant said that Birmingham still suffered from an endemic sense of malaise. But it was a solicitor, whose identity I must conceal to protect him from a lynch mob, who commented: "Whatever they do to Birmingham, it's never going to be a

great place to live. And anyone who says otherwise is barmy."

As it happens, quite a lot of people did say otherwise. The consensus view was that a lot of good companies in the West Midlands had survived the recession of the early 80s and had now slimmed down, looked up with high-technology, and were ready to take on the world.

The bid for the Olympic Games may have been unsuccessful but it had raised Birmingham's profile significantly. And the opening in 1991 of the International Convention Centre would signal the start of a new era for the city.

Of course, central Birmingham still desperately needs an enormous facelift (seeing it in bright sunshine last week made the graffiti and the rubbish and the shoddy 60s buildings look even more depressing) but everyone assured me that a big clean-up was on its way.

In the meantime the major firms of solicitors and accountants are getting on with the business of making lots of money. Middle-ranking Stoy Hayward, for example, is carving out a nice niche dealing with privately-owned companies with a turnover of up to £50 million a year.

It has doubled its fee income in five years and has a strong reputation for its

New specialist fields are beginning to emerge

likes to think of itself as a national firm with a Birmingham base. No precise plans of expansion have been formed but "it is talking with lots of people all the time."

Needham & James meanwhile definitely has major plans. It was just unfortunate that spokesman John Pratt wouldn't divulge to me what they were! With 25 partners the firm is already big by Birmingham standards but from what Mr Pratt implied it sounded as if something pretty significant was in the offing.

The future of Wragge & Co seems to be perpetually bound up with the M5 but as managing partner Peter Wall assured me, "M5 is strong because it has leading firms in it rather than the other way round." Wragge's sees itself as a business which happens to be selling legal services. And in order to maintain its particular strengths it is currently developing a range of new specialisms. Intellectual property in relation to 1992 and the single European market is expected to be especially interesting.

So Birmingham is bubbling and no wonder young Mark Hebden wanted some of the action. After all, on what they pay at the BBC, it's about time he got himself a proper job.

ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY

APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF OFFICERS

The Police Authority for Northern Ireland invites applications for posts in the Royal Ulster Constabulary in the following ranks:

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Applicants for ASSISTANT CHIEF CONSTABLE must be suitably qualified police officers who have at least 5 years' total service in the Superintendent ranks at 27 May 1988.

The salary is £30,960 per annum plus an RUC Allowance of £1,221. The usual allowances are also payable including a rent allowance up to a maximum of £3,807 (under review) and a flat rate car allowance.

The RUC is the second largest police force in the United Kingdom and provides unique policing challenges. It has a complement of 8,250 and is supported by an RUC Reserve whose present strength is about 4,700 including 3,000 who are full-time.

The appointments will be subject to satisfactory medical examinations and to the approval of the Secretary of State. They are conditioned by the Police Acts and Regulations for the time being in force, and to such other conditions of service as may from time to time be adopted by the Authority.

The Selection Boards are likely to be held late July/early August 1988 and it may be decided to interview only those applicants who are considered to be best qualified. The Selection Boards may draw up a reserve list of successful applicants which would apply for a six month period from the date of the Board.

The closing date for the receipt of applications is 16 June 1988. Further details and application forms, which may be requested by telephone, are obtainable from:-

The Secretary
Police Authority for Northern Ireland
5th Floor, River House
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Tel. No: Belfast 236111 Ext. 238/301.

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Salary will be on the 1A (postdoctoral) or 1B scale (+ USS benefits) with starting salary according to age and experience.

Animal Charity

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Animal Welfare Trust,
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Watford by-pass,
Watford,
Herts WD2 8EQ.

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Applications are invited for a Lectureship in Mathematics (applied mathematics), tenable from 1st October, 1988, or as soon as possible thereafter. The preferred subject area for this appointment is theoretical solid or fluid mechanics or a related area of differential equations or nonlinear systems, but other areas of applied mathematics may be considered. Applicants should have a strong research record. The successful candidate will be expected to make a substantial contribution to the research and teaching of the applied mathematics group within the Department.

Salary will be within the range £9,260-£19,310 per annum on the Lecturers' scale, with placement according to age, qualifications and experience.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Academic Personnel Office, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, G12 8QQ, where applications (8 copies), giving the names and addresses of three referees, should be lodged on or before 12th July, 1988.

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Informal visits may be arranged by contacting Ann Cappel, Out Patient Manager on 01-352 6171 ext. 2112.

Job description and application form may be acquired from the Personnel Department, The Royal Marsden Hospital, Fulham Road, London SW3 6JJ, or tel. as above ext. 2144. Closing date: 22nd June 1988.

Continued on next page

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

EXPERIENCED ADMINISTRATOR

KENSINGTON: SALARY AROUND £19,000

An old-established charity which runs thirteen Homes in England - some Residential Care Homes, some Nursing Homes, some mixed - is looking for a **HOMES SECRETARY** to take charge, under the General Secretary, of all aspects of the running of the Homes.

The post will be vacant in October and is suitable for a person mature in age and outlook, with previous administrative experience in a senior post, and with a large measure of common-sense.

The Homes Secretary is responsible, under the policy control of the appropriate Committees, and with the support of a small staff, for all matters connected with the Homes, including personnel, admissions, fees, maintenance of buildings and equipment and budgetary control. He is thus both a line manager and a policy adviser. An ability to draft lucid policy papers is an important requirement.

Attractive pension scheme available. The post carries free membership of BUPA and there is a generous leave allowance. Some travel to the Homes is involved.

Applicants should write by 17 June, with a full C.V., to Miss Sue Rigby at the address below. Those selected for interview will be asked to appear before a Selection Board.

Distressed Gentlefolk's
Aid Association
Vicarage Gate House
Vicarage Gate
Kensington
London W8 4AQ
(01-229-9341)

DGAA

Oxfordshire County Council

CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER

(£34,263 - £37,692)

The County Council is seeking a successor to Tim Brighouse who will leave in the new year to take up an academic appointment at Keele University.

There has been a recent restructuring of the management of the Department into five divisions but with the professional and administrative staff centred in Oxford. This restructuring will provide the means of ensuring that the major changes facing the Education service can be successfully carried through and that resources are deployed effectively. The new Chief Education Officer will come to the Department at a crucial point in its development and will have ample opportunity to exercise positive management and leadership.

Candidates will need to be suitably qualified and to have a good understanding and experience of the management of a large organisation, with a background in educational administration being desirable but not essential.

Application forms and job details from the County Personnel Officer, Oxfordshire County Council, County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND, telephone (0865) 815465.

Closing date: 27th June 1988.

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HEAD OF HOME

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For informal discussion, telephone Janet McLellan, on 01-802 9281.

For job description and application form, write to: The Chairman, Waverley Manor, s/o 221 Galsford Green Road, London NW11 5DW.

Closing date: June 17, 1988.

Formal interview: June 29, 1988.

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We are looking for a senior manager who has a proven record of achievement in a large organisation, and experience in the public sector, to take up this appointment on the retirement of David Macklin on 30 September 1988.

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Further details and application forms from Mr C. H. Schofield, County Manpower Services Officer, Devon County Council, County Hall, Exeter EX2 4QU (or telephone Exeter (0382) 273266).

Closing date 17 June 1988.

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PERSONAL

Continued from page 19 PUBLIC NOTICES

THE PARISH OF ST. MARK'S CHURCH, LONDON
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
The Annual General Meeting of the Parish of St. Mark's Church, London, will be held on the 20th June 1988 at 8.00 p.m. in the Church. The business of the meeting will be to elect members of the Vestry and to consider the accounts for the year ending 31st March 1988. A full list of members of the Parish is available on request from the Church Office, 100, St. Mark's Church, London EC4A 3DF.

CHARITY COMMISSION
The Charity Commission is seeking applications for the post of Secretary to the Commission. The post is full time and involves the management of the Commission's secretariat. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Commission and will report to the Chairman. The post is open to all qualified persons. Applications should be sent to the Charity Commission, 1, The Quadrant, London WC2N 2LU.

DOMESTIC AND CATERING SITUATIONS

WANTED: Housekeeper for cleaning lady - London. Married couple, comfortable home, good salary, good hours. Please send CV to: Mrs. J. Smith, 10, St. Mark's Church, London EC4A 3DF.

ALL BOX NO. REPLY SHOULD BE SENT TO:
BOX NO. 100
BOX NO. 100
P.O. BOX 484
VIRGINIA STREET,
WAPPING,
LONDON,
E1 9SD.

MATRON

The above post will be vacant at the beginning of August in a 22 bed Nursing Home in London. Applications are invited from suitably qualified RGNs. Apply with full CV to the Director, Fenchurch Way, London SE1 1JL. Tel: 01-349 3425.

PRACTICE SRN

Interesting and varied job in Sloane Street Polyclinic, starting mid-August 1988. Salary negotiable. 01-730 5119

Northumberland County Council

ARCHITECT (2 POSTS)

(£12,432 - £14,625 p.a.)

Why not improve the quality of your life and work in the beautiful, dramatic, rural surroundings of Northumberland?

The new offices in Morpeth are only 20 minutes by car from the exciting Metro Centre and the regional centre of Newcastle upon Tyne, but still only a 3 hour journey from London.

We are looking for enthusiastic and able young Architects to augment the talent of the Development division.

The range of work is wide and varied, but does not include housing. A creative approach to your work is essential to help the Department meet the Council's demands in the design and also in the architectural aspects of a property management service.

The minimum starting salary for this challenging role will be £12,804 p.a. for a fully qualified Architect.

For an informal discussion contact Keith Lake, Principal Assistant Director on (0670) 514343 Ext 3902.

ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT/TECHNICIAN (2 POSTS)

Up to £13,173 p.a. inclusive & appropriate user car allowance

To work as members of an architectural group in the preparation of working drawings, site surveys, presentation drawings and schedules and the running of individual contracts.

You must have a sound knowledge of building construction, and contemporary standards and regulations as they affect building construction. You should possess HNC in Building Studies or be eligible for full membership of the British Institute of Architectural Technicians and also have minimum five years relevant experience.

Further details regarding car allowances, removal expenses, pension schemes and application forms from Property Services Department, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF.

Tel Morpeth (0670) 514343 Ext 3981.

Closing date 24 June 1988.

BRACKNELL FOREST BOROUGH COUNCIL

SENIOR ACCOUNTANCY ASSISTANT

Salary up to £16,000

Bracknell Forest Borough Council is a progressive and forward looking authority situated in the south east of Berkshire. It is currently investing heavily to expand its range of Recreational and Environmental Services within the area. An exciting Leisure Pool complex costing £5.5m is to be opened early in 1988.

Following a number of promotions this vacancy has arisen so we are looking for a Senior Accounting Technician or similarly qualified person to join a friendly and efficient accountancy team in the Treasurer's department.

This post offers an opportunity to widen the experience and to participate in all aspects of Local Government work with particular emphasis on Recreation and Housing services.

The starting salary is dependent upon experience, qualifications and ability.

The person appointed can expect to receive every possible assistance with housing including low mortgage assistance up to £40,000, equity sharing mortgage assistance up to £40,000, and a flexible relocation financial package worth up to £5,000. The Council also offer payment of professional indemnity, travel award scheme, generous holidays and flexible working hours.

For an informal discussion about the vacancy ring Peter Bailey on Bracknell (0344 434442 extension 244 or Chris Herbert on extension 205 or for more information and an application form telephone Kim Simons on extension 232 or write to the Personnel Section, Bracknell Forest Borough Council, Easthampstead House, Town Square, Bracknell, Berks, RG12 1AD.

Closing Date for applications: 30 June 1988

ISIS

POLITICAL LIAISON OFFICER

The ISIS Association - the leading campaigning body for independent schools - wishes to recruit a Liaison Officer to boost membership and strengthen links with Parliament, the political parties and independent school action groups.

Candidates must be committed, politically aware and persuasive.

Full details from: Administrative Director, ISIS, 56 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AG.

Closing date: 4th July 1988

Independent Schools Information Service

HALLAM MEDICAL CENTRE

R.G.N. required by private out-patient unit.

Work involves all aspects of infertility including an In Vitro Fertilisation programme. Full training will be given in all aspects of the speciality. Ability to work in a team and enthusiasm are of paramount importance.

Starting salary commensurate with experience. BUPA and Pension scheme after 6 months service.

Please ring 01 631 1583 or write to the Hallam Medical Centre, 77 Hallam Street, London W1N 5LR for details.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND CHRISTIAN HISTORY LECTURESHIP

Applicants are invited for the post of Lecturer in the Department. Preference may be given to candidates with special interests in the area of Practical Theology and Christian Ethics.

Salary will be within the range of £9,260-£19,310 p.a. with placement according to age, qualifications and experience.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Academic Personnel Office, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, G12 8QQ, where applications (8 copies), giving the names and addresses of three referees, should be lodged on or before 24th June, 1988.

In reply please quote Ref. No. 6221E.

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

CITY OFFICE EC4 PRIVATE PRACTICE SEPTEMBER QUALIFIERS 1988

We are acting on behalf of firms throughout Central London currently recruiting solicitors due to be admitted in the Autumn. We welcome applications from articled clerks who wish to discuss opportunities now becoming available in firms of varying sizes and within different specialisations.

We can assure total confidentiality and professional objective advice.

PRIVATE CLIENT PARTNER DESIGNATE EC2 To £45,000

The young partners of a thriving medium sized firm are seeking a dynamic Solicitor with an impressive academic background and quality City experience to strengthen the team at the highest level. Technical brilliance and a confident manner will be rewarded by a top salary and partnership prospects. Ref: RC/MR.

For further details please contact Lucy Hardley or John Collier on (01) 583 0073 (day) or (01) 874 2160 (evenings and weekends).

18-18 NEW BRIDGE STREET, LONDON EC4V 8AU.

BANKING COMPLIANCE OFFICER From £35,000 + Bens

This first class investment bank is currently seeking a qualified solicitor to act as senior compliance officer, managing an existing department and advising on compliance issues at board level. Candidates should be graduates, aged 30-35, with strong technical and managerial skills, and must already be working at senior level in the compliance department of a major financial services group.

INTERNATIONAL BANKING LAWYER From £25,000 + Bens

We are acting on behalf of a major international bank wishing to recruit a City-qualified solicitor for its in house legal team. Candidates, aged late 20s, must be capable of handling a challenging workload encompassing international trade transactions, syndicated loans, and the provision of corporate advice. Experience of banking law and linguistic ability are highly desirable.

For further details please contact Tim Knight or Alexandra Hartree on (01) 583 0073 (day) or (01) 622 6905 (evenings and weekends).

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The family is long-established and has a major interest in one of the most prestigious UK banks. They seek an individual to safeguard and administer their personal financial affairs.

You will have a considerable degree of autonomy, since the family's Secretariat is separate from the bank. Nonetheless, you will be empowered to call upon the organisation's substantial technical resources. Strategic fiscal planning will be pivotal to the role, although you will also control a broad spectrum of complex UK and overseas settlements and enjoy involvement in a range of other activities.

You should be able to demonstrate considerable professional credibility, with an impeccable credential record gained from within a tax, accountancy or legal practice. Needless to say, we would require evidence of a recognised professional qualification, allied to significant experience of tax planning for high net worth individuals and familiarity with trust law and administration. You will possess a diplomatic approach, excellent communication skills and considerable flexibility.

In addition to a salary of around £40,000, the compensation package will include major banking benefits such as a bonus, mortgage subsidy, car and pension scheme.



Please write, enclosing full CV, quoting Ref: A147, to Jennifer S. Tucker or Phillip Price ACA at Mervyn Hughes International Limited Management Recruitment Consultants, 63 Mansell Street, London E1 8AN. Telephone: 01-488 4114.

The Netherlands Commercial Opportunity

An exciting and challenging opportunity has arisen for a U.K. qualified solicitor to join a construction and engineering Group based in the Netherlands.

Our client has earned an outstanding reputation for the profitable growth of its diverse international activities. As part of its high profile legal team you will be advising both the Board and group companies on a broad range of legal and commercial matters. Specific areas of responsibility will include the drafting and negotiation of international contracts, employment law and general corporate advice.

Applications are invited from solicitors with a minimum 2 years' commercial experience and the ability and personality to meet the challenge of this demanding role. A knowledge of the Dutch language is not essential, although a flair for foreign languages would be an advantage.

The position will be based at the Group's head office in the Netherlands and offers a competitive salary package including a company car.

For further information please contact Steven Grubb on 01-831 2000 (01-794 7265 evenings and weekends) or write to him at The Legal Division, Michael Page Partnership, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH. Strictest confidentiality assured.

Michael Page Partnership

International Recruitment Consultants
London Bristol Windsor St Albans Leatherhead Birmingham Nottingham
Manchester Leeds Newcastle-upon-Tyne Glasgow & Worldwide

Commercial Lawyer c£24K + car + benefits City based

The Corporation of Lloyd's is responsible for the administration and regulation of the Lloyd's insurance market. The Solicitors Department is involved in a wide range of activities giving legal advice to the Corporation on general and commercial matters as well as advising on the regulation of underwriting members. Lloyd's underwriting agents and brokers. We are also responsible for conducting civil litigation on behalf of the Corporation.

We are presently seeking an individual with at least two years' post qualification experience as a Solicitor or Barrister to handle a wide range of commercial work.

Candidates must have a good academic record and commercial awareness and some litigation experience. We are offering a salary of up to £24,000 (according to age and experience) plus car. Benefits include mortgage assistance, non-contributory pension, private and permanent health insurance, season ticket loan and subsidised lunches.

Please send written applications with full C.V. to Christopher Hooper, Personnel Department, Lloyd's, London House, 6 London Street, London EC3 7AB.

LLOYD'S LLOYD'S OF LONDON

EDWARD HARTE & CO SOLICITORS BRIGHTON

We are a thriving three partner firm and the following vacancies have arisen:
A) LITIGATION SOLICITOR (up to three years post qualification experience)

B) SOLICITOR for non-contentious work with emphasis on domestic conveyancing

We offer a varied and interesting work load, good salary and excellent prospects. Please apply with C.V. to: C. Wibley 182 North Street, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 1EA.

WILSON & WILSON SOLICITORS ASSISTANT SOLICITOR EAST MIDLANDS

Capable and enthusiastic Solicitor required to handle all aspects of Domestic and Family Law in rapidly expanding Northamptonshire Office. Excellent salary plus car and early partnership prospects. Applicants who have recently qualified or are nearing the end of articles will be considered.

Apply with C.V. to C.J. Warren, Wilson & Wilson, Meadow Road, Kettering, NN16 8TH.

City/West End

CONSTRUCTION PARTNER

We are instructed by an eminent City practice to introduce a senior solicitor of very high calibre to join its Construction Department. The right applicant may expect to head the Department at Partner level. He or she will assume responsibility for a broadly based caseload of building and civil engineering, both contentious and non-contentious, acting for major national and international clients including developers, architects and surveyors. The work is demanding and stimulating. On the non-contentious side it involves the drafting of documents and advising on the formation of contracts in large and complex transactions. In addition he or she will handle arbitrations and litigation of substantial disputes. The total financial and, where appropriate, partnership package will be extremely competitive.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PARTNER

There is the definite prospect of early partnership with a major City firm for an ambitious solicitor with an enthusiastic and committed approach. He or she should have an academic background in science, at least to A level standard, together with around four years' experience in the field of intellectual property. This is a new position resulting from spectacular expansion in the department and it carries an excellent salary package.

CONVEYANCING

c. £25 K

We are instructed by a thriving Central London firm to introduce a competent lawyer with between one and three years' PQE wishing to become involved in a challenging mixture of domestic and commercial conveyancing. He or she will also be working with one of the senior partners on larger matters.

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL

To £30 K

An able young solicitor is required by a progressive Central London practice to handle a stimulating company/commercial workload acting for corporate and business clients both here and in other jurisdictions. There are excellent prospects.

TAX To

£24 K

A large City practice wishes to recruit a recently-qualified lawyer with some tax and/or commercial experience for its expanding corporate tax department. There is great scope for rapid advancement for the right person.

EMPLOYMENT

c. £26 K

There is a new vacancy in the expanding employment unit of this established City firm. Positive consideration will be given to young solicitors, or barristers intending to re-qualify, who have a good grounding in litigation and a wish to specialise in this field.

Greater London

CONVEYANCING & ATTRACTIVE

A solicitor with up to 3 years PQE is sought by a progressive practice in Fulham to handle a mixed conveyancing workload. The bias is residential but will include some development work.

GENERAL PRACTICE

£17 K

A newly qualified solicitor is urgently required by this North East London practice to undertake a mixed workload to comprise personal injury litigation, some matrimonial together with domestic conveyancing. In the long term there are distinct partnership prospects for the right applicant.

TRUSTS/PROBATE

£ NEG

The opportunity has arisen for an able young solicitor with a background in trusts/probate to take on and expand the workload of a small but growing department in this respected North London practice.

Out of London

CONVEYANCING

£14 K + CAR

Our client is a highly regarded and expanding practice in Hertfordshire wishing to recruit two newly qualified solicitors for its successful office near Hitchin. The appointees will display enthusiasm and personality as well as a thorough grounding in conveyancing. On offer is a highly competitive remuneration package and genuine prospects.

LITIGATION

£ NEG

Due to continuing expansion and a move to new spacious offices this large commercial practice in South Buckinghamshire seeks a solicitor of up to four years PQE to handle broadly based civil litigation. No legal aid. Salary is highly negotiable and there are good prospects for the right candidate in this progressive practice.

PROBATE

To £16 K

This old established Essex practice not far from the Suffolk border has an opening for a solicitor to handle probate, trusts and Court of Protection work in its substantial probate department. An excellent opportunity to consolidate experience with good quality work.

COMPANY COMMERCIAL

£ EXCELLENT

We are instructed to introduce to one of the leading commercial practices in East Angles an ambitious high calibre solicitor to join its thriving commercial department. Applications are invited from recently qualified to 5 years PQE solicitors. Attractive salary and range of fringe benefits including car.

MIXED CONVEYANCING

£20 K+

A solicitor with at least 3 years PQE is sought by this well established firm in the Brighton area to lead the conveyancing team in its main office. He/she will supervise domestic conveyancing while personally undertaking mainly commercial property work.

Commerce/Industry

REAL ESTATE - COMMERCIAL

£ SUPERLATIVE

We are instructed by a prestigious industrial company based within the Greater London area to introduce a solicitor seasoned in the field of commercial property.

There is an emphasis placed on negotiating institutional commercial leases and investigation of title. In addition fast, efficient acquisition and disposal of leaseholds and freeholds, intergroup transfer, variations, licences and rent reviews are a must. The opportunity to develop an interest in other areas of law exists, but is not a prerequisite for the post.

The personal profile reveals an individual who can demonstrate speed, accuracy and the ability to develop close relationships with company property managers within a diverse structure. A willingness to travel around within the UK on group business is a vital component of the job.

He, or she, will be a dedicated individual with three to five years post qualification experience in either private practice or a commercial organisation. Therefore, commercial acumen, the ability to work under pressure with minimal or no supervision will be the distinguishing characteristics of the successful applicant.

The rewards will be commensurate with experience and ability. An extremely attractive salary is on offer together with the other benefits usually associated with a post of this level.

88 Qualifiers

Our clients, leading firms of solicitors in the City and Central London, are now recruiting young lawyers due to complete articles in the Autumn. There is a considerable demand particularly in the fields of company/commercial law, conveyancing, EEC/competition, town and country planning, intellectual property, private client and commercial litigation. Applicants who combine experience in any of these areas with a sound academic background will command highly competitive salaries and can look forward to a challenging and rewarding future.

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95 Aldwych, London WC2B 4JF. Tel: 01-242 1261
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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

GOODMAN DERRICK

We are a young progressive 13 partner firm which due to continuing growth seeks ambitious lawyers with drive and up to 4 years' experience to take an active role in the development of the following departments:-

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

We act for two of the largest property companies in the country, High Street retailers and substantial investment and developer companies. We can offer diversity of work with the option to specialise.

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL

Our clients include major quoted and private companies, many in media and service industries. We offer broadly based work which is both demanding and stimulating, close client contact and early responsibility.

To discuss the above and find out more about us, contact our consultant, Gareth Quarry on 01 405 6062 or write to him at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 46 Bedford Row, London, WC1N 2BL.

QUARRY QD DOUGALL

EEC AND COMPETITION LAWYER

To service the needs of our rapidly expanding EEC and Competition Law practice, we are looking for a qualified solicitor with experience in this field to join our team of experts which is based in London and Brussels.

The successful applicant will join a professional group which is growing to meet the challenges posed by the forthcoming changes in UK Competition Law. The group handles major cases of leading importance in this area of the law. Particular emphasis will be on the EC Commission's 1992 programme and merger control initiative.

There will also be the possibility of working at some stage in our Brussels office which handles a wide range of EEC matters before the European Commission and European Court. The salary offered is competitive and attractive and there are good career prospects.

Please write with full career details to:

John Wotton, Allen & Overy,
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ALLEN & OVERY

Compensation Consultancy
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Our client is a leading international accountancy practice.

This new appointment arises as a result of the increasing demand from clients to provide them with planning advice relating to all aspects of executive compensation.

As a member of a growing unit, you will enjoy client exposure at the highest level and be provided with ample opportunity to apply your knowledge and innovative talents.

You will probably be in your early 30s and either a lawyer or accountant. In any event, you will have a thorough understanding of the legal and taxation aspects of employment and ancillary

matters applying at senior level both in the UK and overseas.

The considerable emphasis being placed upon this function and its future growth potential will provide an outstanding candidate with the appropriate career prospects, leading to a partnership.

The terms and conditions of employment will reflect the importance of this appointment and the comprehensive benefits package will include membership of a first class pension scheme, private medical insurance, PHI and a choice of executive level car.

To apply, please telephone or write in the strictest confidence to Robin Rowe quoting reference RR 5109.

Lloyd Chapman Associates

International Search and Selection
160 New Bond Street, London W1Y 0HE
Telephone: 01-499 7761

Company Solicitor

Bournemouth circa £22,000 plus car

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- Statutory compliance with special emphasis on legislation relevant to Finance House Operations
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You will be recently qualified with 2/3 years' post admittal commercial experience within the Finance House/Credit Sector seeking a career move which offers substantial scope for personal development in a growth industry. Working within the Parent Company Secretariat, you will report to the Company Secretary of the parent company with functional responsibility to the Banking Division Managing Director.

The post attracts a substantial benefits package including a 2 litre car, private medical insurance, share and profit sharing arrangements and preferential pension facility. Generous assistance with relocation will be provided where appropriate.

Please write in the first instance enclosing C.V. to Mr S. M. Woolridge, Personnel Manager, at the address below.

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C. £21K.

Thames Water is the largest and most commercially orientated of Britain's Water Authorities, currently employing 9,500 staff, over an operating area of 5,000 square miles and providing a comprehensive service to our 11.5 million customers. Our commercial business is growing fast, both at home and overseas, and we expect to grow even more quickly as we move towards and beyond privatisation.

We need to strengthen our Legal team by appointing an additional Company/Commercial Lawyer (Solicitor or Barrister), specifically to support commercial activities. The successful candidate will undertake a range of work associated with joint ventures, subsidiary companies, intellectual property and commercial agreements. The post is equally suitable for a young Lawyer looking for a broader challenge or a mature Lawyer looking to return to practice as we can tailor the work to reflect your own particular abilities as well as helping you to develop new skills.

We are offering a competitive salary together with a range of benefits you would expect to find in a large and profitable organisation.

Application forms can be obtained from Andy McCoy in the Personnel Department, Room 312, Kings Meadow House, C/O Nugent House, Vastern Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 8DB, or by telephoning him on Reading (0734) 593822. Alternatively, talk to our Head of Legal Services, Pat Jackson, on Reading (0734) 593859.

Please quote Ref No. LS170/5651

Closing date: 27.8.88.



RUNNING WATER FOR YOU

Legal Manager

Middle East Package c£34,300

A leading Shipping, Travel and Trading Company wishes to appoint a Legal Manager to its in-house Legal Department.

Applicants should be Barristers or Solicitors and be in their late 20s or early 30s.

In addition to the salary offered (currently tax free), the attractive benefits package includes Company provided car/car allowance and furnished accommodation/utilities. Additionally, the Company provides generous assistance towards the education of up to three children, 6 weeks leave each 10½ month tour with family passage and free medical within the country of employment. A Sterling Pound remittance scheme at a favourable exchange rate is currently in force. An end of service benefit is provided.

Applications with CV and passport photograph to:

Box No. A28

The Times,

P.O. Box 484

Virginia Street, London E1 9DD.

CONVEYANCING SOLICITOR

Hong Kong

Robertson, Double & Boase are seeking a solicitor to manage their Conveyancing Department. Applicants should have 2 years post-qualification experience. An attractive remuneration package and an avenue to partnership will be offered to the successful candidate. Interviews will take place in London from 13th to 15th June.

Please submit a curriculum vitae to:
Box No C13.

LANDAU & SCANLAN

We seek to recruit an experienced litigation Solicitor for our busy and rapidly expanding litigation department. The successful candidate will have gained at least 3 years post admission experience in general civil litigation preferably in a City or West End practice and will be able to handle a heavy and varied case load without supervision. This position carries real prospects of an early partnership. Salary negotiable. Applicants should apply in writing enclosing CV to:-

J.M. Kosky
Landau & Scanlan
38 North Audley Street,
W1Y 2LS

CLAUDE HORNBY

and COX

A West End practice whose reputation is founded on its expertise in criminal litigation, is seeking a keen young assistant, qualified or unqualified, to join the small but ambitious team to undertake conveyancing and/or general civil litigation.

Salary by arrangement

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Law Report June 7 1988

Council can make rating allowance to itself

Regina v Nottingham City Council, Ex parte Nottinghamshire County Council
Regina v Mansfield District Council, Ex parte Same

Before Lord Justice O'Connor, Lord Justice Bingham and Lord Justice Taylor
[Judgment May 26]

Where a rating authority made a resolution under section 55 of the General Rate Act 1967 directing that owners of certain classes of property in their area should be rated instead of the occupiers, the rating authority could lawfully make an allowance to itself, as owner of such property, within the terms of the section; and such allowance was properly to be deducted in calculating the product of a penny rate under the Rate Product Rules (SI 1981 No 327).

Before making such a resolution, the rating authority was obliged to be reasonably satisfied that the section 55 resolution offered a reasonable prospect of significantly improved efficiency and economy in collecting the rates.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments when it dismissed the appeals of Nottingham City Council and Mansfield District Council, both rating authorities within the county of the respondent, Nottinghamshire County Council, from the decision of Mr Justice McCullough on Feb-

ruary 8, 1988, when he quashed the section 55 resolutions of the rating authorities passed on January 19, 1988, and July 27, 1987, respectively.

Mr Jeremy Sullivan, QC and Mr David Mole for Nottingham City Council; Mr Jeremy Sullivan, QC and Mr Harry Sales for Mansfield District Council; Mr Graham Machin for Nottinghamshire County Council.

LORD JUSTICE BINGHAM said that a county council issued precepts to rating authorities within the county requiring those authorities to levy a rate for the county council's benefit in addition to or as part of the rating authority's own rate.

The rating authorities were obliged by statute to inform the county council by February 1 in each year the estimated product of a penny rate in their areas so that the county council could fix the sum in the pound for which its precept was to be issued.

Thus, the lower the rating authority's own rate, the higher the sum in the pound for which the county council's precept had to be issued to raise the sum required for its own expenditure.

Second, if the product of a penny rate in any one rating authority district could be in any way reduced the effect was to throw an increased burden on ratepayers in other rating authority districts.

Section 55 represented a departure from the cardinal rule of rating that rates were levied on the occupier of a rateable hereditament, and a resolution made under it was a unilateral decision of the rating authority; such resolutions were made in the case of hereditaments having a relatively low rateable value.

The 1967 Act was a consolidating Act, and the correct approach in construing such a statute was defined in *Inland Revenue Commissioners v Janner* ([1975] 1 WLR 1701, 1711, [1975]).

His Lordship said that the words "all hereditaments" in section 55 were ambiguous, so that help in clarification was to be found in section 11(1) of the Rating and Valuation Act 1925, the lineal ancestor of the 1967 Act.

It was clear from the 1925 Act that a rating authority might become entitled to an allowance in respect of hereditaments owned by it, and the repeal of part of section 11(1) was in terms which implicitly recognized that rating authorities could receive allowances in respect of their tenants' hereditaments. Such an indication was conclusive in the rating authorities' favour.

Having considered the 1967 Act and the 1981 Rules made under it, his Lordship concluded that paragraph 4 of the Rules, relating to the cost of

collection, was entirely apt to cover the total cost of allowances made under section 55 (including the administrative cost of handling them) less the estimated cost to the rating authority of collecting the rates.

In reaching the conclusion that the rating authorities rightly passed their resolutions in the belief that the allowances were deductible, his Lordship differed with the conclusion of Mr Justice McCullough who had quashed their decisions on the basis that they had misunderstood the law.

But there was the question whether, on the evidence, the rating authorities had acted lawfully in passing the section 55 resolutions: it was clear from the report of the city treasurer to the policy and resources committee of Nottingham City Council that it was not thought necessary to identify any gain in efficiency or economy in saving because the resolution was not directed to those ends but to reducing the penny rate product so as (a) to reduce the rate burden on city ratepayers (with a consequent increase for county ratepayers outside the city) and (b) to obtain additional rate support grant. The same was true in the Mansfield case.

As the judge had found both sides accepted that the purpose of section 55 was directed to financial economy in the collection of rates, his Lordship

believed efficiency should be added to that.

Since the section 55 power was given to rating authorities to help them in collecting the rates, it could not be accepted that it was a power exercisable for ends entirely unrelated to the collection of the rates, nor, as in the instant cases, it would yield a minimal gain of efficiency and involve losses on collection out of all proportion to any conceivable saving.

Thus, unless a rating authority was reasonably satisfied that a section 55 resolution offered a reasonable prospect of significantly improved efficiency and economy in collecting the rates, it was not entitled in law to make the resolution.

If for whatever reason a resolution were likely to lead to a loss of rate support grant or (through the county precept) to an increased rate burden, it would be quite unrealistic to suggest that that matter should not be considered.

Allow for consideration were beneficial side effects of the resolution. Such matters only fell to be considered where a rating authority properly formed its opinion that that was not done, and on the facts could not have been done by either of the rating authorities.

Solicitors: Mr M. Walsley, Nottingham; Mr L. Linsey, Mansfield; Mr A. Sandford, West Bridgford.

Whether and when to give majority ruling

Regina v Thornton and Others
Before Lord Justice Glidewell, Mr Justice Gagehouse and Mr Justice Fife
[Reasons May 26]

Once a jury had deliberated for two hours the question whether to and when to give a majority direction was entirely one for the judge's discretion under section 17(4) of the Juries Act 1974.

What verdicts had already been given, the order in which the jury were apparently considering the counts, whether, if it was known, they had considered the case against an individual defendant, were all relevant matters which the judge should take into account in arriving at his decision.

However, there could be no doubt that allowing the jury to deliberate for a total of 5½ hours before giving a majority direction was in strict accordance with section 17(4).

The Court of Appeal so stated when giving reasons for dismissing on May 24 the appeals of John William Thornton and John Derek Stead against their convictions on April 3, 1987 at the Central Criminal Court (Judge Underhill, QC and a jury) of sexual offences against

boys and drug offences. Thornton's total sentence of eight years' imprisonment was reduced on appeal to 6½ years and Stead's total of five years was reduced to 4½.

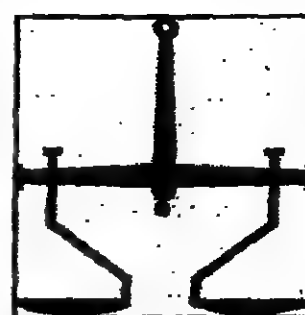
Mr Peter Cairns, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals for Thornton; Mr James Cartwright, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Stead; Mr John Bevan for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE GLIDEWELL said that it was submitted on behalf of the appellants who had been arraigned with nine other men, that section 17(4) made it clear that Parliament intended juries to have at least two hours for consideration of any one verdict, but it appeared that this jury had been considering the case of Thornton for a maximum of one hour and had not reached or considered counts relating to Stead at all when the majority direction was given.

The jury had deliberated for 5½ hours before the direction was given, which was in strict accordance with section 17(4), and it could not be said that the judge had exercised his discretion wrongly.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Headquarters.

Efficiency is good, justice is better



LEGAL BRIEF

In the light of attacks on the jury system,

David Cocks, QC, Chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, looks at ways to improve criminal justice

accused in these circumstances should not be required to state in simple terms what his defence is. This is a different situation from that of a person under police interrogation. There are strong arguments in favour of retaining the right of silence in the police station, when a person may have only a fragmentary picture of what is alleged.

If a simple system of defence disclosure is brought into operation, it will take much of the heat out of the debate over the right of silence and will put an end to the "ambush" defence - when the accused suddenly springs a new defence on the prosecution at trial.

Modern technology affords revolutionary opportunities in investigation and trial procedures. All criminal trials have felt the impact of tape-recorded interviews. They have prevented endless time-wasting and sterile disputes as to what was said in interrogation. The video camera opens up further possibilities of filming witnesses' statements.

This has been much discussed in relation to child abuse cases. Proposals have been put forward to use the video film in court. One proposal says that the child could be questioned by both sides

before trial and the ensuing film put before the jury as evidence, without the child attending as a witness.

The temptations of adopting this course on humane grounds must always be rejected in the interests of allowing cross-examination of child witnesses at the trial itself. In a difficult and dangerous branch of the law, this must be retained as a safeguard for the accused. The effects for the child can be mitigated (giving evidence by video link to the court from an adjoining room), but they cannot be totally dispensed with.

Much evidence in fraud and associated cases is long, tedious and difficult to relate to issues. The laborious oral tradition of the criminal trial will be much modified by information technology. It will be possible to compress and demonstrate masses of evidence in more manageable fashion. There will be more preparatory work and pre-trial procedures. The role of the judge will be more directive and interventionist.

A successful jury system requires that public confidence is maintained. The jury 25 years ago was "predominantly male, middle-aged and middle class" in Lord Devlin's phrase. There is no such consensus now. What we should have in its place is a genuine system of random selection.

We have found that the system of selection of jurors for the various crown courts is an arcane area of knowledge, not widely known or understood. And it is completely isolated from the world of information technology which the unsuspecting layman might have thought was linked with the concept "random".

In 1913, Lord Mersey's committee on the jury recommended a uniform and mechanical selection process; 75 years later it has become relatively uniform but is untouched by mechanization. Efficient random selection is even more important now since the accused's right to any way in the make-up of his jury is going with the abolition of peremptory challenge, while the Crown's right to vet potential jurors is retained in full. If the jury's face has changed, it must be the acceptable face of criminal justice.

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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We have been instructed by one of the major practices in Bristol to recruit able and ambitious lawyers for both their Commercial Property and Litigation departments. The Partners are flexible and objective in their analysis of candidates and these positions are not being kept for the sole reserve of lawyers who have been trained in the City. Training will be provided and the salaries are first class.

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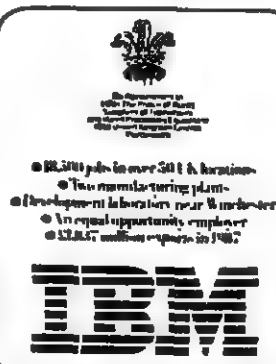
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Linnells

Aspire
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In the last decade many areas around London have undergone radical changes; the increasing tendency for companies to establish their head offices outside London, but within easy reach of its facilities, has generated opportunities in all areas of specialisation in towns throughout the Home Counties.

For local solicitors this has often meant a fundamental change in the nature of their practices, in many cases enabling them to offer a similar client base, quality of work and salary level to central London firms. The larger firms can also offer a high standard of backup facilities combined with the quality of life that is

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England left to play for survival

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

TRENT BRIDGE: England, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, need 136 to avoid an innings defeat by West Indies.

Given a large measure of batting devotion and a fair share of luck, England may still avoid defeat in the first Cornhill Test today. That, however, is all they can hope to do; survival is the limit of their ambitions after a day on which they resumed the sadly familiar role of subservience to their West Indian dictators.

On and off the field it was a fraught day for Mike Gatting on his 31st birthday, and he is now certain to arrive at Lord's for next week's second Test with his job at risk. Some may regard this as unfair, and point to the recent 3-0 victory in the Texaco Trophy one-day series. The selectors, however, will be obliged to take more account of the fact that Gatting will by then have overseen 14 Tests without a win, a new and unenviable record for an England captain.

Other factors will also be influential. Gatting's handling of bowlers had become more positive and intelligent over recent months. But his leadership in this game has sometimes baffled. There is, too, the increasingly tiresome matter of his forthcoming autobiography, a book which, in his present predicament, has all the virtues of a banana skin.

A chapter of the book, due out at the end of this month, deals with the tempestuous Pakistan tour late last year. The Test and County Cricket Board applied to Gatting permission to comment on the tour; the captain, agreed by Gatting and his publishers but apparently not by the Board, is that the chapter will appear under the name of the co-author though still, obviously, amplifying Gatting's personal thoughts.

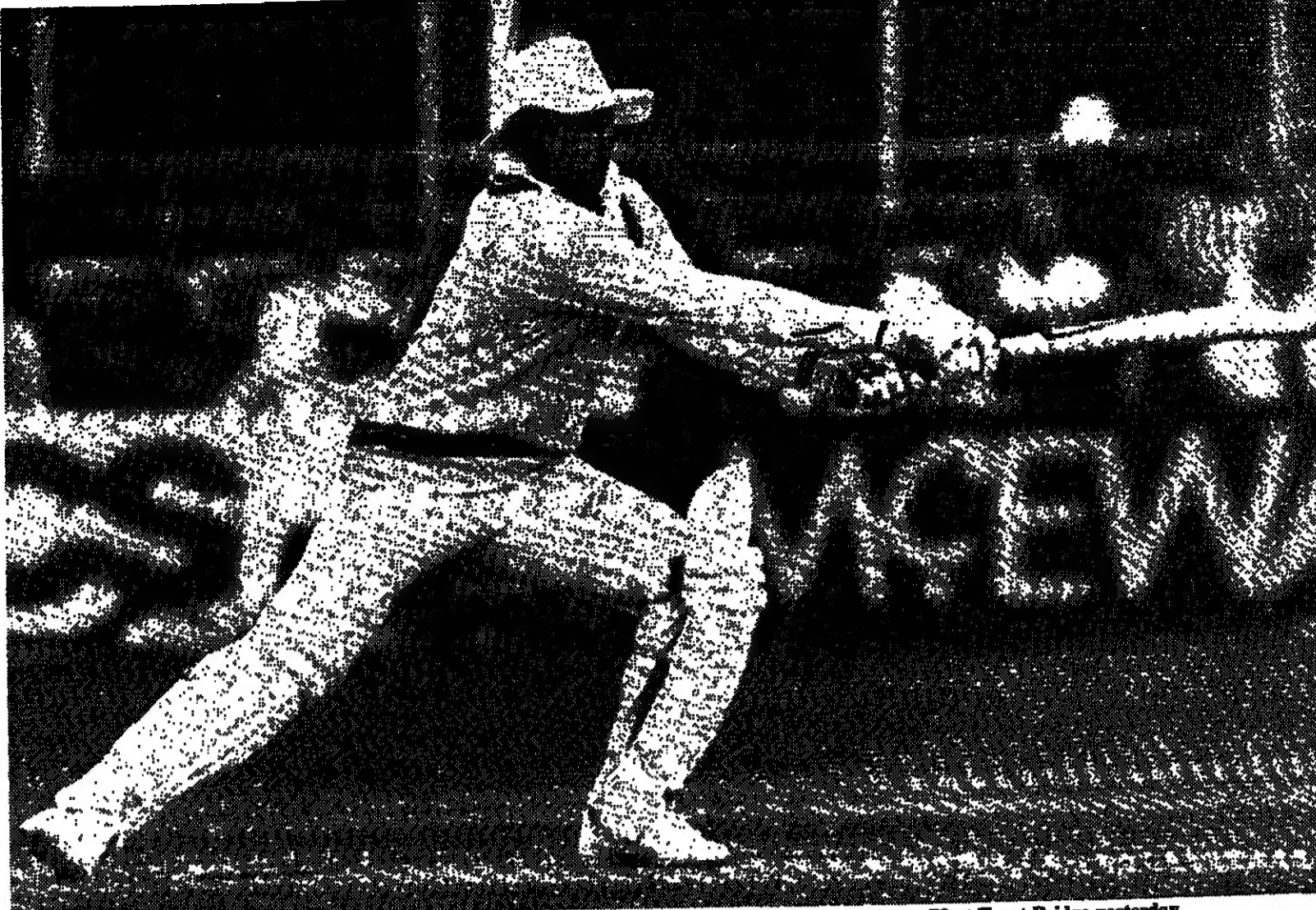
He is apparently determined to have his say on an issue which still ripples with him. But he should now bear in mind that the consequences may not end with a slap on the wrist. Alan Smith, the TCCB's chief executive, confirmed here yesterday that he plans to meet Gatting on Thursday to discuss the subject. The board's lawyers have not yet completed their inquiries and it may be that Gatting is not strictly in breach of his contract. He is, however, not exactly making his public utterances from a position of strength.

Richards, Gatting's opposite number, began yesterday seeking another 150 runs for a potentially winning position. He was pleasantly surprised. Chiefly due to staunch and sometimes spectacular batting, the West Indies added 184 and gave their captain the luxury of a declaration shortly after tea.

In diverse ways, Hooper, Marshall and Ambrose all batted admirably, but their progress was aided rather than inhibited by some odd desultory English cricket. From very early in the day Gatting gave the inescapable impression that he felt the match was out of his control and that his most sensible course was to sit back, slow things down and hope.

Even this attitude cannot fully explain why Dilley, who bowled only three balls all day on Saturday, toiled through 20 overs and three balls yesterday while Jarvis, whose temperament under attack was so impressive on day three, hardly got a look-in. Pringle was rightly entrusted with a large measure of the bowling; his control has seldom faltered.

A second experiment with Emburey, however, proved almost as disastrous as the first. There was now no Richards to flog his off-spin to all



Making strides: Marshall adding to his outstanding bowling performance with a flamboyant 72 at Trent Bridge yesterday

parts, but Marshall, hugely enjoying himself with the bat, proved a worthy deputy after Emburey had retrieved a little of his self respect with a series of maidens to Ambrose. Marshall drove successive fours over mid-wicket and long-off, so inspiring the previously strokeless Ambrose that he ventured a straight six off the suffering spinner three overs later.

Marshall and Ambrose put on 91 for the eighth wicket, only eight runs short of the West Indies' record against England. It was the most frustrating part of the game for England as, having removed the lordly Hooper at 334, they must have hoped for a deficit of barely more than 100. By this stage the fielding was not what it might have been and Ambrose, in a curious innings,

was dropped by both Downton and DeFreitas. Marshall was a belated victim of Emburey as he danced down the pitch, but Richards, perhaps sensing England's mood, batted on after tea to turn the screw, declaring only when Ambrose was run out in challenging Gooch's arm from mid-on.

England set off needing 204 to avoid an innings defeat and, on the evidence of their first effort, hoping that the opener could provide at least half of them. Broad, though, was never at his best, taking his eye off the ball whenever it was dropped short and eventually, after an unhappy stay, flicking diffidently outside off stump against Ambrose.

Gooch had his alarms, especially against Walsh and Marshall, who are moving the ball appreciably off the pitch. The bounce, too, remains variable. England will need their luck to get through today, but Marshall, their most formidable foe, will also need to apply caution, after his second warning of the game for following through on the pitch. Without him, the West Indies' attack would not be the same.

SCOREBOARD FROM TRENT BRIDGE

England won toss

ENGLAND

First Innings: 245 (G A Gooch 73, B C Broad 54; M D Marshall 6-69, C E L Ambrose 4-53).

Second Innings

	38	40	42	44	46	48	50	52	54	56	58	60	62	64	66	68	70	72	74	76	78	80	82	84	86	88	90	92	94	96	98	100	
G A Gooch not out																																	
B C Broad c Duggan b Ambrose																																	
M D Marshall not out																																	
Extras (D 4, N 1)																																	
Total (1 wkts)																																	

D I Gower, A J Lamb, D R Pringle, P R Downton, J E Emburey, P A J DeFreitas, P W Jarvis and G R Dilley to bat. FALL OF WICKETS: 1-35.

WEST INDIES

First Innings

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